



Knots in My Yo-Yo String

By Jerry Spinelli

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"A master of those embarrassing, gloppy, painful, and suddenly wonderful things that happen on the razor's edge between childhood and full-fledged adolescence" (*The Washington Post*),

From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather, like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life. Entertaining and fast-paced, this is a highly readable memoir-- a must-have for Spinelli fans of all ages.

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Knots in My Yo-Yo String By Jerry Spinelli Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this montage of sharply focused memories punctuated with b&w photographs, Spinelli (Maniac Magee; Winger) reconstructs the experience of growing up during the '50s. His descriptions of his childhood universe (which does not extend beyond Norristown, Pa.) elicits the use of all five senses. He invites readers to gaze upon the same stars he studied as a child; to listen for the "not-very-loud" whistle of Mrs. Seeton calling not only her own brood but all the kids home to their suppers ("for a mother's call somehow touches us all"); to smell the "sour, vaguely rotten" aroma of the Adam Scheidt Brewing Company; to savor the taste of Texas Hot Wieners ("They had spunk. They fought back"); and to feel the "clack" of colliding teeth during his first kiss with Kathy Heller (in a game of Truth or Consequences). The audience might be content to bask in the warm glow of post-WWII reflections, but the author has other plans: he shows readers how the seeds of a writer were planted in his youth. Wedged between sometimes painful, more often hilarious scenes of preadolescent and adolescent angst are quiet, contemplative moments when young Spinelli develops his artistic imagination replaying the days' events and pondering such mysteries as time, space and the origin of knots in his yo-yo string. As Spinelli effortlessly spins the story of an ordinary Pennsylvania boy, he also documents the evolution of an exceptional author. Ages 10-13.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5 UpAA loving reminiscence of childhood. Although the first five pages are slow moving, detail laden, and rather puzzling in parts, the rest of the book takes off as Spinelli takes small, seemingly insignificant snippets of the 10 years he lived on George Street on the West End of Norristown, PA, and explains from his adult viewpoint how they were stepping-stones to his success as a popular children's book author. Even though he only read cereal boxes and comic books as a child, he displays and describes his "early leaning toward language." Phrases such as "music's bunkhouse" to define an old crank phonograph, and using "picturing" to "co-create the moment" to show how listening to the radio was interactive, are evidence of his talent with words. In a conversational tone, Spinelli fondly recalls neighbors, pastimes, and events of the 1940s and 50s. Black-and-white photos present amusing images from his past. Readers may not be familiar with all of the lingo (Bonomo's Turkish taffy) or personalities (Lash La Rue), but they will enjoy the humorous episodes. In the last chapter, the author states, "I mixed my memories with imagination to make stories, to make fiction, and when I finished writing, I had a book, my fifth novel....It became my first published book....I continued to write stories about kids and to rummage through the attic of my memories."

Lucky for his readers!AKate Kohlbeck, Randall School, Waukesha, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4⁺-7. In Fargo, North Dakota, in September 1992, Newbery medalist Spinelli was asked, "Do you think being a kid helped you become a writer?" In this warm, deeply personal memoir of the kid he was, Spinelli takes us to Norristown, Pennsylvania, in the 1950s. Very gently, he reveals the critical importance of bikes and baseballs, empty lots and early television, your own street, and where your friends lived. For adult readers--of a certain age--Bonomo's Turkish Taffy and Howdy Doody may bring tears or giggles of recognition; kids will be delighted by Spinelli's frank admission that he spent most of his youth reading only comic books and the sports pages. What a marvelous thing, though, to read about a grown-up writer who still has all the notes his ninth-grade girlfriend wrote him in 1956. Their longing, their shyness, their desire to please, can even now break hearts. Young readers will be delighted to find that the author of *Maniac Magee* (1990) had a dog he loved, found school peripheral to his real life, and acquired a pesky and charming little

brother, just as they might. Readers will notice that he still holds as friends some of the guys he knew back then. And they will know that a regular kid can remember all that important stuff when he grows up.

GraceAnne A. DeCandido

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curt Roepke:

This Knots in My Yo-Yo String book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This particular Knots in My Yo-Yo String without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Knots in My Yo-Yo String can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even phone. This Knots in My Yo-Yo String having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Kristopher Sutherland:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read will be Knots in My Yo-Yo String.

Pat Tran:

With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is usually Knots in My Yo-Yo String. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Sally Canady:

A number of people said that they feel bored when they reading a publication. They are directly felt this when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the actual book Knots in My Yo-Yo String to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading proficiency is developing when you like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the opinion about book and reading especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to open up a book and study it. Beside that the guide Knots in My Yo-Yo String can to be your brand new friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what

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