

The image features a stylized logo for 'Stargirl' set against a background that looks like a film strip. The word 'Stargirl' is written in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. To the right of the text, there are faint, large letters 'GOLF' and a question mark. Below the text are three large, dark, five-pointed stars with a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. The entire graphic is enclosed in a black border with white rectangular segments, resembling a film strip.

Stargirl

Answers

Please Return

Stargirl Answer Keys

Porcupine Necktie & Chapter One – Point of View and Meet Stargirl

Let's examine the point of view in this novel. Complete the following questions.

Who is telling the story?

Is the point of view

- **First person** (a character is telling the story)
- **Third-person limited** (an unseen narrator, not a character, is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character)
- **Third person omniscient** (an unseen narrator- not a character- is telling the story and this narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of several characters)

Choose and write some words and phrases that helped you to figure out the point of view of this novel.

Examples: *When I was little...*

...when we moved from...

...Kevin said to me...

Meet Stargirl.

In this first chapter, we are introduced to Stargirl. Let's take a closer look at her. Complete the following chart to begin analyzing her.

Samples Provided

two facts that you have learned about her	Hair is the color of sand She carries a ukulele and a large canvas bag with a sunflower on it.
two descriptive words that seem right for Stargirl	Eccentric Brave Oblivious
one or two quotes from the story so far that help show this character's personality	<i>No one sat with her, but at the tables next to hers, kids were cramming two to a seat. She didn't seem to notice. (oblivious)</i>

Chapter Two – Hyperbole and Imagery

Which words form hyperbole? *He grinned ear to ear.* and *Our ratings will go sky high.*

Why would these be considered hyperbole? They are both a figure of speech (a form of irony) in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; exaggerated statements.

Imagery

I had to admit, the more I saw of her, the easier it was to believe she was a plant, a joke, anything but real. On that second day, she wore bright-red baggy shorts with a bib and shoulder strap — overall shorts. Her sandy hair was pulled back into twin plaited pigtails, each tied with a bright-red ribbon. A rouge smudge applied each cheek and she had even dabbed some oversized freckles on her face. She looked like Heidi. Or Bo Peep.

For Discussion

On page eleven, the narrator says that the word HUH? seems to hover above the school. What is the purpose of this question? Accept reasonable responses.

Chapters Three and Four – Figurative Language

Idiom- an expression that means something totally different than what it says

Page 14 – *The rat she brought to school was only the tip of the iceberg.*

What does the underlined idiom mean? Stargirl bringing the rat to school was just the beginning of her troubles. There are numerous disasters waiting to happen.

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Pages 13-14 – *We both thought the prickly pear cactus looked like ping-pong paddles with whiskers, and that saguaros looked like dinosaur mittens.*

What things are being compared with these similes?

The prickly pear cactus and ping-pong paddles

Saguaros and dinosaur mittens

Why are these similes effective? Accept reasonable responses

Metaphor - compares two things by calling one thing another

Page 15 – *She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl.*

Underline the metaphors.

What is being compared with these metaphors? Stargirl to a faint scent of a cactus flower and the shadow of an elf owl

Personification - nonhumans are given human traits or attributes

Page 18- *The sun lay down behind the mountains.*

What is being personified in this sentence? The sun

Oxymoron - putting two contradictory words together **Examples:** hot ice, wise fool

Read the following passage.

What could I say? That Parr was a worthy subject precisely because he did nothing, because he was so monumentally good at doing nothing? I had only vague insight, not the words. I just shrugged.

Underline the words in the passage that form an oxymoron.

Write a sentence about one of the characters from the novel using an oxymoron. Accept reasonable responses.

Complete the following chart to examine other examples of figurative language in these chapters.

ARA = Accept reasonable responses.

Page #	Passage	Type of figurative language	What it means
15	In our minds we tried to pin her to a corkboard like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and away she flew.	simile	They can't get Stargirl "figured out" and she is unique and can't be forced to conform.
16	I observed her as if she were a bird in an aviary.	metaphor	He watches her but does not interact with her.
17	Shadows crossed the streets.	personification	They are creating shadows as they move along the streets.
18	The sun lay down behind the mountains.	personification	The sun was setting.
19	... I did not realize this until years later; he was grand marshal of our daily parade.	metaphor	The others follow Wayne Parr – they dress like him, act like him, etc.

Chapter Five – Strong Verbs

Strong Verbs

Read the following passage. Circle each strong verb, and then use the chart to record other strong verbs you find in chapter five.

But Kevin was screaming on the phone. I jumped in the family pickup and raced to the stadium.

I bolted from the truck. Kevin was at the gate, windmilling his arm: "Hurry!" I threw the two dollar admission at the ticket window and we raced for the field. "See better up here," he said, yanking me into the stands.

Examples provided

ARA = Accept reasonable responses.

Strong Verb Used	Page number	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
Yanking	22	ARA
Roamed	22	ARA
Stared	23	ARA
Glancing	4	ARA

Chapter Six – Dashes and Predictions

Read the following sentences:

Stargirl began strumming and humming. She stood. She strolled between the tables, humming, strumming. Three hundred pairs of eyes followed her. She came to Hillari Kimble's table — and kept on walking, right up to the table where Kevin and I sat with the Hot Seat crew. (page 28)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to add emphasis or a pause

I was feeling nine ways at once, and they all ended up at the touch of her hand on my ear — until Kevin reached over and yanked the same earlobe. (page 29)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to indicate an abrupt stop or a change in thought or tone

Find another place in the novel where Spinelli uses a dash. Record it here: In class she was always...asking questions, though the question often had nothing to do with the subject. One day she asked a question about trolls – in US history class. (pgs 10-11)

Why does Spinelli use this dash? to insert an extra thought

Making Predictions

1. Who do you think Archie is going to be? Accept reasonable responses.
2. What led you to this prediction? Accept reasonable responses.
3. What do you think will happen between Stargirl and the narrator? Accept reasonable responses.

Chapter Seven – Characterization

Name _____ Date _____

1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.
2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

Reread pages 30-35. Complete the following charts with as many personality traits as you can about Archie, and then decide if the author used direct characterization or if you concluded something about a character through indirect characterization.

Samples Provided

<i>Archie's Traits</i>	<i>Evidence (Quote from the book)</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
unique	Some people have stone cats on their roofs; on his roof Archie Brubaker had a skeleton of Monroe, his deceased Siamese.	Indirect
hospitable	We found him...reading...The moment he saw us, he put his book down. "Students! Welcome!"	Indirect
profound	Archie talked that way sometimes – in riddles. We didn't always know what he was saying.	Indirect

He stared at Kevin. "On the contrary, she is one of us. Most decidedly. She is us more than we are us. She is, I think, who we really are. Or were."

What do you think Archie means in the above passage as he discusses Stargirl with Kevin and Leo.

Accept reasonable responses.

Underline the words in the sentence below that form an example of figurative language.

As the sun dipped below the mountains, it fired a final dart at Archie's flashing eyebrows.

The underlined words form a(n) _____.

C. hyperbole

C. simile

D. idiom

D. personification

Chapter Eight – Author's Writing Style & Colons

Read the following passage that is written on page 36. Notice the question.

The change began around Thanksgiving. By December first, Stargirl Caraway had become the most popular person in school.

How did it happen? Answers may vary – Stargirl has become more accepted – her peers even copy her behaviors.

Find one other place in chapter eight where the author uses a question. Write the page number and paragraph number. Page _____ Paragraph _____

Why is this question effective? Answers will vary.

Figurative Language- Writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting and effective. By using a simile, metaphor, idiom, or personification, the writer is able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Chapter eight of the novel contains several examples of figurative language.

Simile – compares two things using the words *like* or *as*

Page 37 –*Its tiny unblinking eyes were bulging, black as cloves.*

What two things are being compared with this simile? Cinnamon's eyes and cloves

Why is this simile effective? It illustrates how large the rat's eyes grew and just how very black in color they were.

Colons (:) – This is a list of when to correctly use colons:
Where should a colon be placed in this sentence?

The grandstand was packed: students, parents, and alumni.

Which rule in the list does this sentence use? to signal the reader that a series of words, phrases, or clauses follows a complete sentence

Chapter Nine – Writing Opportunity

Use rubric to score article.

Chapters Ten & Eleven – Discussion

Discussion Questions

Answers will vary

Chapters Twelve & Thirteen– Discussion & Prediction

ARA= Accept Reasonable Responses

1. Draw an illustration of the scene described on page sixty after Leo calls, "Ready one. One!" Be sure to include as many of the details provided as possible.

Illustrations will vary

2. List two examples of imagery used by Spinelli that helped you include details in your description.

Answers will vary based on individual illustrations – possible imagery may include

Her scream bent instrument dials like...

Tipping out of his chair, on his knees on the stage...

3. Explain what happened while Stargirl was on *Hot Seat*. ARA – Stargirl pantomimed her hiney being on fire, and Cinnamon escaped and frightened the cameramen and the jury.

5. What do you think of how the jurors treated Stargirl on *Hot Seat*? ARA

5. Do you agree with Mr. Robineau flipping the master toggle? _____ Why or why not? ARA

6. What do you think was going through Stargirl's mind as she was on *Hot Seat*? ARA

8. What do you think Stargirl will do next? ARA

Chapter Fourteen – Allusion

Read the following passage:

...While Sun Valley's team was not as good as ours, they did have one thing we did not: a superstar. A kid named Ron Kovac. He stood six-foot-eight and averaged thirty points per game. Our players looked like Davids flailing against Goliath.

What is the allusion to in this passage? the Bible passage about David and Goliath

The allusion is made to _____.

- a. the Bible
- b. a nursery rhyme
- c. Shakespeare
- d. a myth

This allusion also contains _____.

- a. a simile
- b. a metaphor
- c. personification
- d. an idiom

The allusions in the example sentences (both A and B) contain figurative language.

What type of figurative language is used in sentence A? simile

What type of figurative language is used in sentence B? metaphor

Write a sentence of your own that contains an allusion. ARA

Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen – Author's Craft

I turned. I felt heavy, as if I were moving through water, as if I were confronting much more than a tenth-grade girl with an unusual name. I face the gaudy sunflower on her canvas bag – it looked hand-painted – and at last my eyes fell into hers. I said, "Thanks for the card."

Her smile put the sunflower to shame. She walked off.

Kevin was grinning, wagging his head. "She's in love."

"Bull," I said.

"She is mucho in love."

"She's goofy, that's all."

The bell rang. We gathered our stuff and left.

I wobbled through the rest of the day. A baseball bat could not have hit me harder than that smile did. I was sixteen years old. In that time, how many thousands of smiles had been aimed at me? So why did this one feel like the first?

Spinelli uses a great deal of figurative language, questions, strong, descriptive verbs, and imagery throughout the novel. In the passage above, each of these elements are very evident. Examine the passage by completing each of the following.

1. Underline each example of figurative language.
2. Circle the examples of imagery.
3. Place a box around each strong, descriptive verb.
4. What effect do the questions have? What do they make you think about? ARA

After reading the passage and analyzing the author's craft, what do you think now about Leo and his feelings for Stargirl? ARA

How do you think Stargirl feels about Leo? ARA

Stargirl

Chapter Seventeen – Figurative Language / Extended Metaphor

Name _____

Date _____

Read each sentence below. Then, identify the figurative language used in each one.

1. *I could feel a million reasons, but there were no words to express them.*
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor
2. *I tried to imagine I was ... dissolving away like Alka-Seltzer.*
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. simile
 - c. idiom
 - d. metaphor

Extended Metaphor- ARA

Chapters Eighteen & Nineteen – Conflict

Conflict – a struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character’s emotions (internal conflict)

Complete the following chart to analyze the conflicts that are present in the novel.

Character	Conflict	Passage from the book that proves or supports that conflict	Type of conflict (internal or external)
Stargirl	anger	<i>Her eyes blazed with a ferocity...She flung her defiance at our gloom.</i>	Internal
Leo	self-conscious and embarrassed	<i>...I grew increasingly paranoid. I was intensely aware that our aloneness had changed...It...was a chilling isolation.</i>	Internal
Students at Mica High School	angry with Stargirl for cheering for the other team at the basketball game	<i>After the basketball stuff, I guess. That really ticked a lot of people off.</i>	External and Internal
Hillari Kimble	meanness/hatred	<i>...Hillari dropped it...she sent Stargirl a final sneer and left.</i>	External and Internal

Discussion

1. Do you think that the “silent treatment” is affecting Stargirl? _____ Why or why not?

ARA

2. Read the passage: *A small pipe cloud left the corner of his mouth. He smiled sadly. "Poor dolphin. Caught in a net."* To whom is Archie referring? Stargirl Why is this an appropriate comparison? ARA – but students may likely include that Stargirl is innocent and helpless like a dolphin.

3. Whose affection will Leo value more? _____ Why do you feel this way?

ARA

Chapters Twenty and Twenty-one – Writing Opportunity

Stargirl makes up headlines she would include if she were the editor of the Mica Times and she explains a filler article found in newspapers.

First, review the headlines Stargirl says she would write.

**Ants Haul Monster Load
Across Vast, Barren Walk**

**Mystery Smile: Old Man
Nods Off At Tudor Village**

Door Beggars: Knock Me!

Now, you will come up with a headline (“Stargirl style”) first. Think of something unusual that you have seen before that perhaps went unnoticed by others. (a baby’s toothless smile, a butterfly resting on a bright green leaf, a duck floating on the bright lake water....) Write your headline here:

Accept reasonable headlines.

Next, you will write a filler article. Remember the guidelines that Stargirl provided: no headline; not more than one column wide, never more than an inch or two deep; most often found at the bottoms of inside pages; often not “news”, not “important”; topics are anything – how many pounds of rice a typical Chinese person eats in a lifetime, a missing cat, a collection of antique marbles – Think of some unusual topic that you could write a filler about – use the guidelines above and write your article here.

Accept reasonable articles –
students should follow the ones
written by Stargirl.

Chapters Twenty-one & Twenty-two – Understanding Stargirl & Meeting Her Family

In this chapter we learn a great deal about Stargirl and her habits. She learns about people using some unusual methods.

What are some of the unique ways she learns about the people around her? Reading the back pages of the newspaper – the fillers, listening to people talk in the place she gets her haircut, looking on bulletin boards around town, etc.

Describe the game she plays while “people watching”. She follows a person for exactly 15 minutes, and then she decides what type of card they need and what is going on in his/her life.

What does Stargirl do with her change that is special? She drops it all over town for people to find.

How does Stargirl’s room surprise Leo? It is “normal” looking.

Describe Stargirl’s mom. She looks like a “regular mom” – in shorts and a tank top. She sews costumes for a living.

Describe her father. _____

How does Stargirl help the birds with their nests? She saves her hair as it falls out and places it outside in the spring.

How does Stargirl feel about Archie? She has a lot of respect for him.

Explain the wagon Leo sees on Stargirl’s shelf. It is her happy wagon – she places a pebble in the wagon if something makes her happy and takes one out if something makes her sad.

Who is Peter Sinkowitz? Stargirl’s neighbor; He is five years old.

What is Stargirl doing for him? Stargirl is making a biography of his life.

What does she plan to do with this? She plans to give it to his parents when he’s older and can appreciate it.

Prediction

Based on what happens between Leo and Stargirl at the end of chapter twenty-two, what do you think will happen next in their relationship? ARA

Will their relationship move forward? _____ Why or why not? ARA

Chapters Twenty-three & Twenty-four – Internal Conflict

Page #	Summary of Conflict	Prediction of how you think the conflict will be resolved
126-127	Leo is describing the shunning that he and Stargirl are being subjected to.	ARA
128	Leo is angry and resentful over his feelings about Stargirl and his doubts about himself for wanting the other students to be a part of his life.	ARA
129	He is embarrassed that Stargirl publicly displayed her love for him.	ARA
132	He is upset that he is being ignored by his peers.	ARA

Discussion

Explain how Leo is being treated by his peers at his school. He is being ignored – shunned. How would you feel if you were being treated in a similar manner? ARA

Chapter Twenty-five – Symbolism

A symbol is something that stands for or represents something else, like a dove represents peace. It is any object, person, place, or experience that means more than what it is.

A literary symbol has literal meaning in a story but stands for something else.

Leo mentions Stargirl's eyes in this chapter as he has done in previous chapters. Read what he has said about her eyes, and discuss the possible symbolism in each.

Page 124: *Maybe it was the angle, but her fawn's eyes, looking up at me, seemed larger than ever. I had to make an effort to keep my balance lest I fall into them.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in these sentences? Possible response - innocence

Page 128: *But then I would see her smile and take a swan dive into her eyes, and the bad moment would be gone.*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? Possible response – a body of water

Page 130: *She ran up to me, breathless, bursting, her eyes sparkling in the sun. "Did you see it?"*

What do her eyes most likely symbolize in this sentence? Possible response - light

Discussion

Two days later Stargirl vanished. Why do you think Stargirl "vanished"? Possible answers may include *she is upset about Leo and his telling her no one likes her.*

Where do you think she went? Accept reasonable predictions.

What do you think she should have done in this situation? ARA

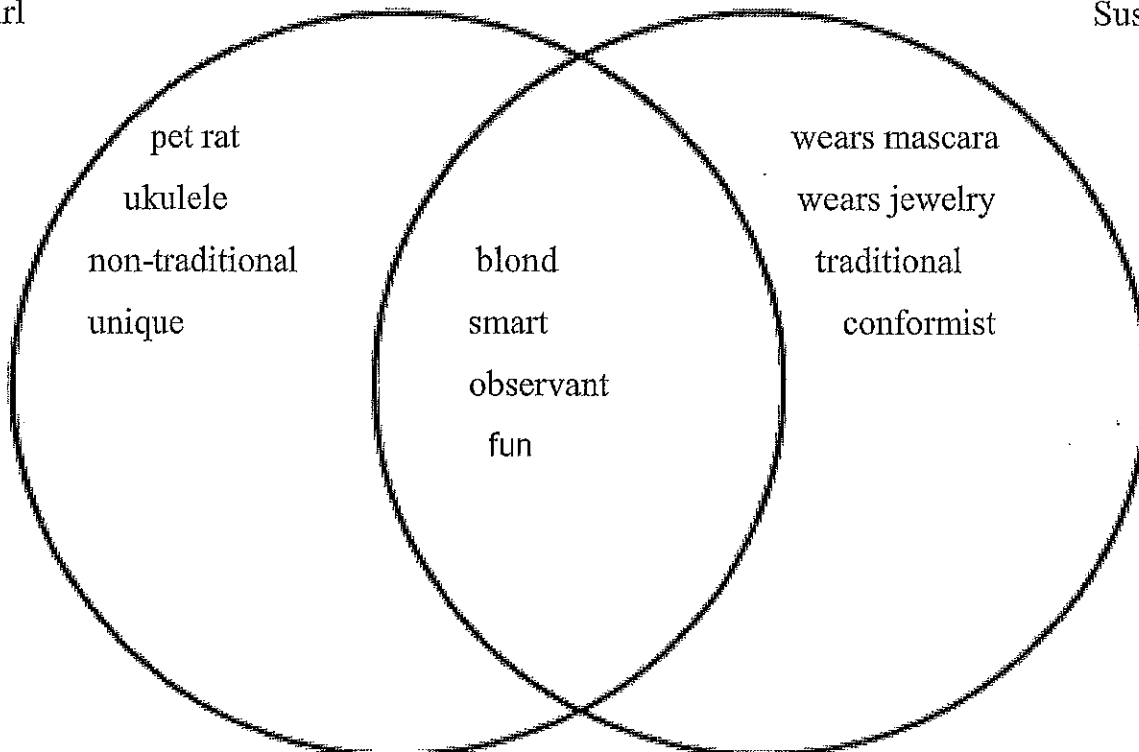
Chapters Twenty-six – Compare/Contrast & Tone

Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Stargirl and her life with Susan. Be sure to label it.

Samples provided

Stargirl

Susan



There is huge change in this chapter for Stargirl/Susan. Explain this change. Be sure to give your opinion on it. Students should include that Stargirl is now a girl like the others – no longer unique.

Tone - the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details

I heard laughter behind me. And then a voice, Stargirl's . . .

I turned, but it wasn't here. The girl standing, grinning in front of me wore jeans and sandals, had burnt-red nails and lipstick, painted eyes, finger rings, toe rings, hoop earrings I could've put my hand through, hair...

... Tentatively I whispered, "Stargirl?"

She batted her chocolaty eyelashes. "Stargirl? What kind of name is that? My name is Susan."

Which word best describes the tone used as Leo discovers "Susan"?

- a. sorrowful b. loving c. amazement d. angry

Who is Evelyn Everybody? _____

Chapter Twenty-seven – Mottos

ARA

Chapters Twenty-eight & Twenty-nine – Sequence

Sequence of Events

Use the following graphic organizer to sequence the events of the state oratorical contest.

Meet her parents in the library.

Ate a buffet lunch

Susan boarded a bus that would take her to where the contest would be held.

Susan made the cut of the top ten speeches.

She gave her speech – it was a new one.

She returns to the hotel.

She tells Leo she made the speech up on the spot.

She ate dinner at the hotel.

She gave her speech.

Audience cheered loudly.

She won.

Surprises!

This chapter has several surprises for both the characters and us! Explain the surprise element of each of the following:

- Susan's speeches at the oratorical contest: She made them up as she went along.
- The crowd at the school after the contest: There were only three people – two teachers and Dori.

Chapters Thirty & Thirty-one – Discussion / Comic Strip

Explain your interpretation of Susan's transformation back into Stargirl. Include any symbolism that you think is there. Be sure to include the falling of the silver plate. (pages 161-162)

ARA

Should Stargirl have hit Hillari back at the dance? Complete the following charts listing reasons she should have and reasons she should not have. ARA

Read the following passage (page 162).

Walking with her after school that day, I said, "I guess you're giving up, huh?"

She looked at me. "Giving up? On what?"

"On being popular. On being..." How could I say it?

She smiled. "Normal?"

I shrugged.

"Yes," she said firmly.

"Yes?"

"I'm answering your question. The answer is yes. I'm giving up on trying to be popular and normal." Her face and body language did not seem to match her words. She looked cheery, perky.

What do you think Leo means by "popular" and "normal"? He means that Susan is gone forever – that Stargirl is no longer like the other girls ; she is herself.

Are his definitions of those terms different than those of Stargirl? _____ Why do you feel this way? ARA

How does she seem to feel about being Stargirl again? ARA

Go back and reread the passage that describes the Ocotillo Ball (pages 167-175). Then, **create a comic strip** illustrating the events. When you are finished with the comic strip, try to interpret the events. What could they all mean?

Use the boxes below to illustrate your comic strip. Pay attention to Spinelli's imagery as you draw each scene. You may use captions or dialogue. You may add boxes (on the back of this page) or delete boxes as needed. **Use the rubric to score comic strips.**

Chapter Thirty-two – Discussion

1. As this chapter begins, we learn that fifteen years has passed since Stargirl left. What does it say about Leo that he can remember all of the events with her so clearly?

ARA – possibly that he was truly in love with her

2. What do you think this tells us, the reader, about his feelings for her? ARA

3. Archie has this to say about Stargirl: *"... Though I think she had simpler things in mind. Star people are rare. You'll be lucky to meet another... They supplied the ingredients that became us, the primordial elements. We are star stuff, yes? ... And I think every once and a while, someone comes along who is a little more primitive than the rest of us, a little closer to our beginnings, a little more in touch with the stuff we're made of."*

What do you think of the way Archie describes Stargirl? Do you think he is right? ARA What made her "rare"? ARA – her uniqueness

4. *"She liked you boy."*

"Yes," I said.

"She did it for you, you know?"

"What?"

"Gave up her self, for a while there. She loved you that much. What an incredibly lucky kid you were."

"I know."

He shook his head with a wistful sadness. "No, you don't. You can't yet. Maybe someday..."

What did Archie mean when said that she "gave up her self"? ARA – she changed herself for Leo

Do you agree with Archie that Leo was lucky? _____ Why or why not? ARA

ANSWER KEY - VOCABULARY
Stargirl

	1-4	5-9	10-13	14-17	18-21	22-25	26-29	30-end
1	E	C	B	D	E	A	D	G
2	H	G	E	B	D	D	C	D
3	B	E	D	F	F	B	F	F
4	M	I	F	I	C	C	A	B
5	G	A	A	A	A		B	I
6	N	D	C	H	B			C
7	J	F		C				A
8	A	B		E				H
9	L	H		G				E
10	D							
11	F							
12	I							
13	C							
14	K							

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