

# The Warden's Daughter



By

Jerry Spinelli

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

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**About the author:** Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit [novelstudies.org](http://novelstudies.org).

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## Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Most sections of the novel study focus on six chapters of *The Warden's Daughter* and are comprised of the following activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

**Every activity need not be completed by all students.**

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include coming of age, heroes come in a variety of disguises, coming to grips with one's past, loyalty and friendship.

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## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Listing compound words
8. Identifying parts of speech
9. Identify *personification*.
10. Identification of root words

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Complete a Plot Outline
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

### Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Complete a KWS Chart
10. Create a friendly letter.

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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## Synopsis

From Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli comes the "moving and memorable" (*Kirkus Reviews*) story of a girl searching for happiness inside the walls of a prison.

Cammie O'Reilly lives at the Hancock County Prison--not as a prisoner, she's the warden's daughter. She spends the mornings hanging out with shoplifters and reformed arsonists in the women's exercise yard, which gives Cammie a certain cache with her school friends.

But even though Cammie's free to leave the prison, she's still stuck. And sad, and really mad. Her mother died saving her from harm when she was just a baby. You wouldn't think you could miss something you never had, but on the eve of her thirteenth birthday, the thing Cammie most wants is a mom. A prison might not be the best place to search for a mother, but Cammie is determined and she's willing to work with what she's got.

[Summary courtesy of The Publisher]

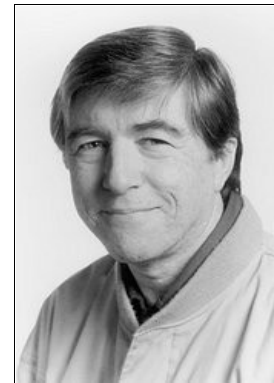
## Author Biography

*Jerry Spinelli*

Born in 1941 in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Jerry Spinelli discovered his calling in 1957 when his high school football team won a big game. The town celebrated, his fellow students raced through the streets, but Jerry sneaked back home and marked the occasion in his own way. He wrote a poem. Later the town newspaper published it. "And," he reports, "I've been a writer ever since."

Married to Eileen Spinelli, who is also a writer, Jerry was for many years an editor for the Chilton Company.

Jerry Spinelli's immensely popular books include *Space Station Seventh Grade*, *Jason and Marceline*, *Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?*, and *maniac magee*, which has won more than fifteen state children's book awards in addition to the Newbery Medal. (Biography courtesy of the publisher)



# The Warden's Daughter

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### Student Checklist

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

# The Warden's Daughter



*By Jerry Spinelli*

Name:

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# The Warden's Daughter

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Cammie 2017  
Cammie 1959 - Chapters 1-6



## Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main character of *The Warden's Daughter* is twelve-year old “Cannonball” Cammie O'Reilly, who lives with her warden father in an apartment above the entrance to the Hancock County Prison. It is very important for the main character of a story to be appealing in some way, and be able to hold the reader's interest. What is one book (or movie) that you have read or seen which features an unforgettable protagonist? What was it about this character that made him/her so memorable?




## Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

dungarees	audible	multitude	dormant
unprecedented	resistance	colossal	implored

1. The prison yard contained a \_\_\_\_\_ of women inmates.
2. We both \_\_\_\_\_ the policeman not to give us a speeding ticket.
3. Usain Bolt's record-breaking race was \_\_\_\_\_ in the world of sports.
4. Her cold was so bad that her voice was barely \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She made a \_\_\_\_\_ mistake when she accused her mother of lying.
6. I didn't think there would be so much \_\_\_\_\_ to the principal's new rules.
7. “Don't worry,” the scout master said. “It looks like the bee hive is \_\_\_\_\_.”
8. Go up to your room and put on your new pair of \_\_\_\_\_.



# Questions



1. According to Cammie, what did the Hancock County Prison resemble?


2. Why might Eloda Pupko be considered an unusual person to have as a maid?


3. As Chapter One concludes, what decision did Cammie arrive at?


4. Describe the circumstances of Cammie's mother's death.


5. What made Cammie finally give into obeying Eloda when asked to be responsible for her own dishes at mealtime?


6. Describe your personal impression of Reggie.


7. What did Reggie consider to be her mission before Cammie and Reggie entered Stewart Junior High School? Do you think she will be successful? Why or why not?


8. Describe what is meant by the expression, *cigarettes were kissing*.


9. Describe how Cammie averted a confrontation in Chapter 6.


## Language Activities



### A. Cliffhanger

Chapter Six contains an important literary device called a **cliffhanger**. A cliffhanger usually occurs at the end of a chapter when the author leaves the reader in suspense. How is this true in Chapter Six? Why do you think the author ended the chapter this way?




## B. Simile

A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Six is ... *she (Boo Boo) came bounding and laughing across the yard like a huge denim beach ball*. In this example, what two things are being compared?



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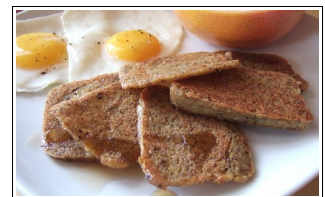
Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) the slamming of a prison cell


b) the taste of scrapple


## C. Scrapple.

Cammie really seems to enjoy eating scrapple. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, investigate this unusual food item. Record the main ingredients below, as well as any pertinent information regarding its preparation.




## D. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters. All of the words in the left-hand column can be found in the first six chapters of *The Warden's Daughter*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
table		Sheep talk.
sink		Outer covering.
dishes		How an upset audience reacted.
scrapple		People at a concert.
counter		Beat soundly
meals		Guys.
twist		Imbeciles.

**E.** Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here is such an example from Chapter Five: ... *King Kong*

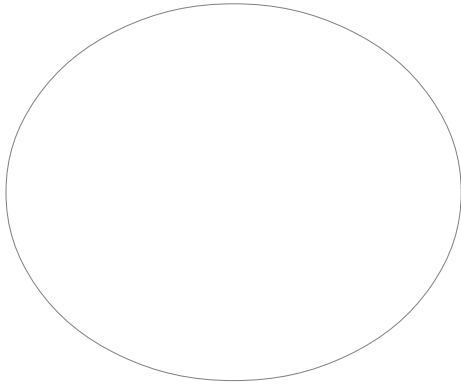


Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

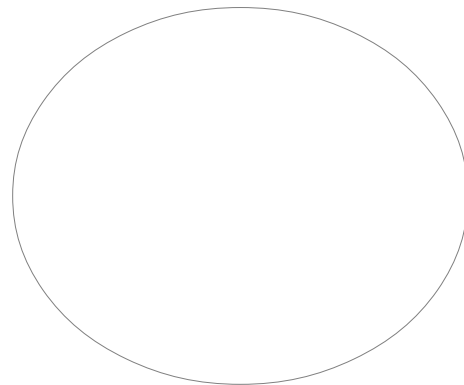
Your favorite sport.	
A loud sneeze.	
Your choice.	

## F. 5 Ws and an H.

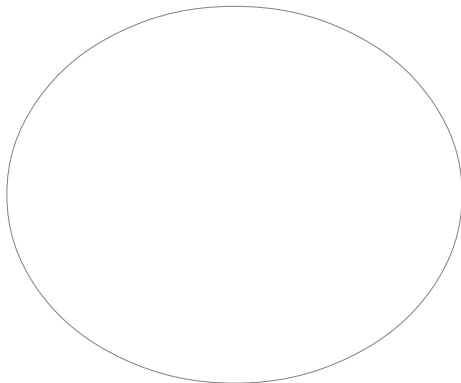
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



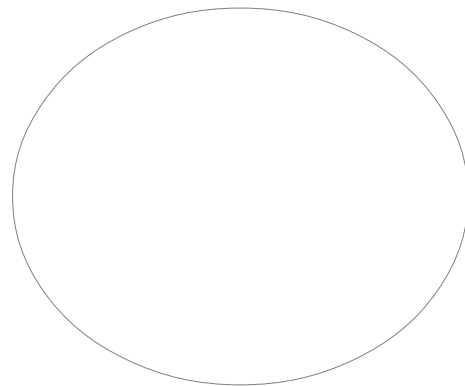
***WHO?***



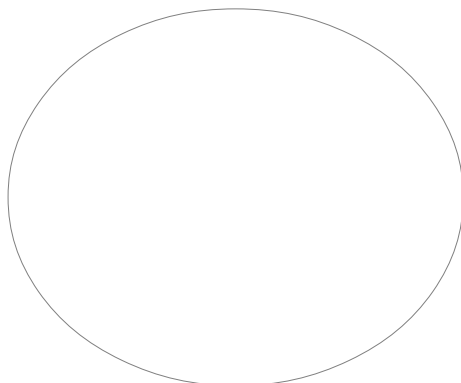
***WHAT?***



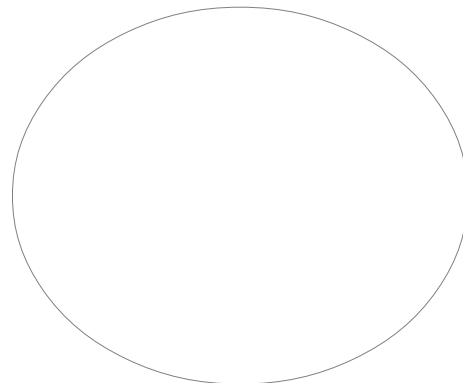
***WHEN?***



***WHERE?***



***WHY?***



***HOW?***

## G. My 02¢ About This Section.

What I Liked Best:

I Didn't Like The Part:

I Didn't Like It Because:

## H. Caviar Words

The author of this novel is noted for his use of elegant, tasteful words. Someone once stated that some words have the sound of **caviar** (rich and elegant) and others are more are common (**peanut butter** words). With a colleague come up with 6 examples of each type of word. You may use any chapter of the novel to find these words.



Caviar Words	Peanut Butter Words

# Extension Activity



## A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words



Use the three boxes to describe and illustrate the beginning, middle and end of the sixth chapter.

Beginning Picture:	Beginning:
Middle Picture:	Middle:
Concluding Picture:	Concluding: