

Literature Circle Extension Project
 By Richard Armato
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Reflection:

Throughout reading the book and the literature discussion I thought and spoke of symbols and the changes that the main character was going through. My immediate thought for the extension project was to make a character bookmark that described the main character within the context of one of his main characteristics, running. I found a picture of a boy running at www.animationfactory.com and used that as my graphic. Since the character was always running in one way or another I felt it would be a great symbol, since things like milkweed and the stone angel were too obvious of choices. Also, running allowed me to refer to the stone angel in under the symbol of how the main character's craziness (running mind) kept him alive during his life.

Self Evaluation:

	4	3	2	1	Score
Grammar	No errors	1-3 grammatical errors	4-6 grammatical errors	More than 6 grammatical errors	4
Description	Clear, to the point. Well described Character	Fairly clear description of character	Describes character, but not enough detail	Does not describe character	4
Looks	Everything is centered with no spacing errors	Everything is centered, but 1 spacing error	2 or 3 spacing or centering errors	More than 3 spacing or centering errors	4
Overall Presentation	Idea stated clearly and shown in work	Idea stated clearly and partially shown in work	Idea not stated clearly, but good work	No idea stated and sloppy work	4
				Total	16/16

FRONT

Milkweed
By Jerry Spinelli



Misha (Jack)
Pisudski-Milgrom

BACK



The main character in this story is an orphan who grows up on the streets of Warsaw during the holocaust. He steals to supply food for himself and others that he comes into contact with throughout the story. His ability to run symbolizes the trait that helps him survive during this time of religious prosecution. His running also symbolizes how his mind runs (craziness) and how this allows him to adapt to his surroundings as a survival mechanism. His adaptations include becoming a gypsy, a Jew, and even a stone Angel. He became a gypsy (Misha Pilsudski) when his friend Uri realized he needed an identity to give him a meaning to his life. He became a Jew (Misha Milgrom) in order to become a part of a family in the ghetto. And, during the time in the ghetto, he became a stone angel in order to be able to stand at attention throughout the night so he wouldn't fall and be beaten by the Jackboots. At the end of the book he came to America and became Jack Milgrom and began to convey his memories through "running" his mouth and telling the people who would listen about his story. The running was key to the main characters survival in every form of the word.