

## **Study Guide: Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos**

**Task:** Please answer the questions in your binder in complete sentences with specific details and textual evidence from the novel!

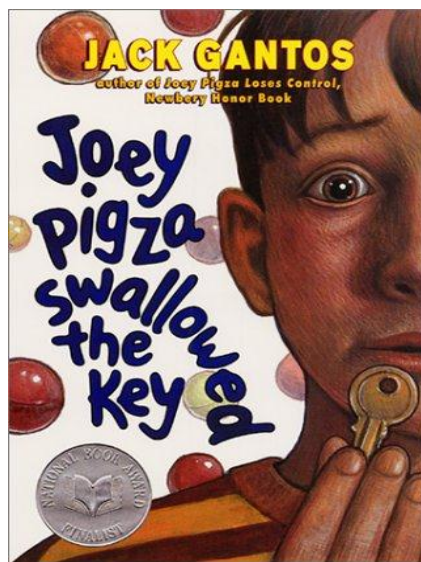
- 1) Do you know anyone who acts like Joey or do you ever feel like Joey? (No specific names, please!) What is it like being around them? What does it feel like?
- 2) How do the teachers at school try to help Joey?
- 3) Is there something "wrong" with Joey? What is it?
- 4) Is Joey a "bad" kid? What would make people say that about him? What would you say to convince them otherwise?
- 5) How are Grandma and Joey alike?
- 6) Joey often gets in trouble at school, but in what ways does he help out?
- 7) Special guest Mrs. Cole comes to Joey's school to speak to the talented and gifted students about the phrase "character counts." What does that mean? How does it apply to Joey?
- 8) Who does Joey have to confide in?
- 9) How do you think Joey feels about his mom returning?
- 10) Why might Joey's Grandma have tricked him about his mom calling on the phone and walking by the house? (pg. 124)
- 11) How is Joey able to manage his problem?
- 12) When Joey makes bad decisions, does he have any choice? Why or why not?
- 13) How does Joey show he has a sense of humor about his problems?
- 14) How much of Joey's problems can be blamed on how he's "wired" and how much on his home life?
- 15) Everyone in Joey's life has rules for him to follow. Which rules does he obey? Which does he disobey? Why does he obey some and not the others?
- 16) How does he feel about rules, especially after he gets his new meds?
- 17) Discuss the title. Why do you think the author chose it?
- 18) Do you have hope for Joey in the end?

19) What do you think happens to Joey in the sequel to Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key?

20) After reading the book, do you now have a better understanding of someone similar to Joey? Explain.

**VOCABULARY:** Define each vocabulary word. Put each word in an appropriate sentence of your own, making it clear you truly understand the word! There are 50 vocabulary words total.

voltage	vibrate	mesmerized	hyperactive	jarred	pharmacy
prescription	puberty	brass	disruptive	focus	coma
ricochet	carom	licorice	gelled	ooze	static
maze	exceptional	peers	mummify	collide	ambulance
maniac	wincing	cite	intensive	desperate	furiously
mandatory	mechanic	heave	springy	foster	rigid
medication	khaki	binge	vial	stethoscope	Chihuahua
fidget	sarcastically	clenched	souvenir	neurologically	dosage
therapies	ADHD				



*Fusco, 2013*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Fusco

Class Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Decisions and Consequences Chart:**  
**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos**

The protagonist (main character), Joey Pigza, is faced with many decisions throughout the fictional novel, Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, by Jack Gantos. As you read the novel, write down the choices made by the protagonist and the consequences of his actions. Put the page # of the decisions and consequences. This will greatly assist you in the major writing assignment in which this chart will prove useful.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Consequence</b>