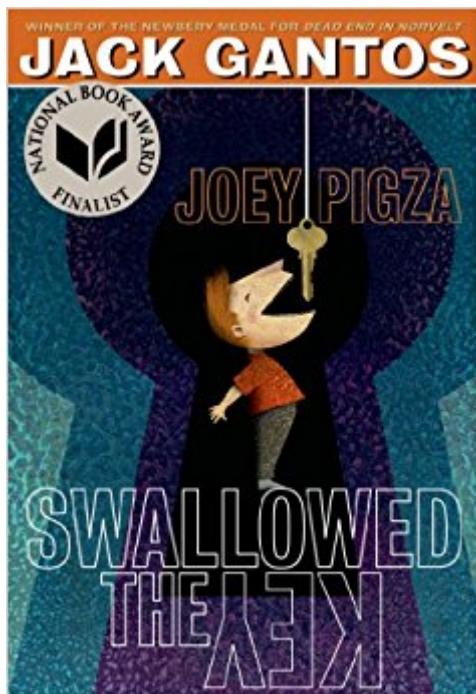


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Joey Pigza Swallowed The Key



Synopsis

"They say I'm wired bad, or wired sad, but there's no doubt about it— I'm wired." Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got "dud meds," which is what he calls the Ritalin pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors. Joey ends up bouncing around a lot - and eventually he bounces himself all the way downtown, into the district special-ed program, which could be the end of the line. As Joey knows, if he keeps making bad choices, he could just fall between the cracks for good. But he is determined not to let that happen. In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyper-activity and related disorders. This title has Common Core connections. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joey Pigza has problems. Big problems. He was emotionally abused by his grandmother. He has never met his dad. He can't get along in his elementary school classroom because of his mood swings and his "dud meds." We gradually see that Joey must have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), which is not being effectively controlled with his current medication. Joey's life is a terrifying

roller-coaster ride, and Jack Gantos, author of the *Rotten Ralph* books, drags the reader along to see what life is like with ADD. The story is written from the boy's point of view in a sharp, worried style that veers out of control when Joey does. Joey's control of his own behavior slips away as we read, horrified to see this boy trying to get a grip on his life and failing. He disrupts the class field trip; he puts his finger in a pencil sharpener and injures himself; he swallows his house key. Then he runs through the classroom holding open sharp scissors. When he trips and falls, seriously injuring a classmate, he is transferred to a special-education program in another school. Here, thankfully, he encounters a caring teacher who recommends further medical evaluation, and Joey is eventually able to return to his former school. There is hope for Joey on the last page--he sits in the Big Quiet Chair to read. Gantos has achieved an unusual feat with this book. We want to turn away from Joey's shifting prison of emotions. But for those who stick with him, he shows us what his life is like. We walk a mile in his shoes, our feet hurting all the way. For young readers touched by ADD--and for their teachers and parents--Joey gives us the key to his world. (Ages 10 and older) --Marcie Bovetz --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Authentic-sounding first-person narration by a hyperactive boy gives readers an inside view of attention-deficit disorders. Joey Pigza is a "wired-up mess," and he is struggling to get on the right track. But no matter how hard Joey tries to be good, he usually ends up in trouble, sometimes harming himself or others. After an accident in which the tip of a classmate's nose is sliced off, Joey is suspended from school and sent to a special education center. As case worker "Special Ed" predicts, things do get worse before they get better. Joey's fear that "something [is] wrong inside me" escalates before his medications are readjusted and he is finally able to learn how to make "good decisions." Joey's good intentions, off-the-wall antics and their disastrous consequences will ring true to everyone who has had contact with a child suffering from a similar disorder. In addition to offering an accurate, compassionate and humorous appraisal of Joey's condition, Gantos (the *Rotten Ralph* series; *Desire Lines*) humanely examines nature (both Joey's father and grandmother are as "wired up" as he) versus nurture (abandonment by Joey's parents, abuse by his grandmother, children's taunts) as factors in Joey's problems. Joey's hard-won triumph will reassure children fighting his same battle and offer insight to their peers. But because the book is so realistic, reading it can be painful and requires patience, just like dealing with a child like Joey. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

I loved this when I read it myself, and I used it as a read aloud for 5th grade Read 180 students and they loved it, too! They begged me to read it daily, and hated when it was time to move on to the lesson. They also begged me to get the sequel, and we loved it as much as the first. When my PTA gave me money to spend on my classroom, I decided to buy the entire series of Joey books.

My son chose this for his middle school summer reading (there were 2 other choices). This book is about a boy who had ADHD and my son totally related to that. This is the best book I've found on ADHD that explains it well to children.

This was a book that touched me in many ways and I am quite happy to have read it. Joey Pigza is an extremely hyperactive 5th Grade boy. As he says to start the book "At school they say I'm wired bad, or wired mad, or wired sad, or wired glad, depending on my mood and what teacher has ended up with me. But there is no doubt about it, I'm wired". Through Gantos' deft storytelling, with Joey acting as our narrator, we are quickly taken into Joey's world. Joey's world isn't one that most of us would like to be a part of for very long. Joey has, up until the time we met him, lived in a world punctuated by two things. The fact that he is a wired, or in other words suffering from an extreme case of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and a home life that involves a grandmother taking care of Joey, whose parents are AWOL, who in her own wired way is rather abusive towards Joey. Joey's life changes though with the return of his mother, which causes Joey's grandmother to leave. Joey's mother is a far more together person and is committed to trying to help Joey get better. However, Joey's ADHD causes him to get into ever more destructive situations that culminates in Joey accidentally maiming a girl's nose. With Joey describing the situation, if the reader reads quickly enough, it is quite possible for Joey's ridiculous decisions to make sense. Upon any sort of reflection Joey's decisions look ridiculous, but the fact that Gantos can make the reader understand why Joey acts the way he does is a large part of what makes this an excellent book. After reaching rock bottom Joey is sent to a special school where Joey's desire to not act that way is met with people who can help him get better. And slowly, and not without the occasional set back, Joey with the help of his case worker, "Special Ed", Joey is put on medication that works and he learns to make good decisions. The book ends with one of life's little triumphs as Joey is allowed to leave the Special Education school and return to his normal school. While not everything is OK things are look pretty good for Joey. This sums up the true triumph of Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key. The book manages to capture the shades of grey that are almost always missing from children's book. Joey is an astute 5th grader, but he is still a 5th grader and so sometimes there are just things he doesn't

understand, unlike other children's books where the children appear to be nothing short of clairvoyant. This is a book that is fun to read while being so much more. I highly recommend this book.

The book came in great condition, I love reading this to my 5th graders to start the school year. A great book to motivate kids who might not normally like to read. It's easy to relate to Joey Pigza and although I have read it many times, I find myself laughing every time! Would recommend as a gift to a 4th or 5th grader

Joey Pigza Swallowed the key This was an interesting book that I feel can benefit many kids and adults. The book is about a little kid named Joey that suffers from ADHD. The book is a narrative of Joeys struggle in school and at home with his "disability". Joey comes from a broken home and has lived with his grandma for the majority of his life. Joeys grandma doesn't treat him anywhere near what he should be treated, growing up Joey has been treated very poorly from evil pranks about his absent mother and father to trying to force Joey into having a "time out" in the refrigerator. Joey is in the fifth or fourth grade and over the years he has been labeled as a "problem child" throughout the school. Its pretty tough for Joey he honestly cant control his body at times and he just ends up finding himself in more and more trouble. Many people don't see ADD or ADHD as a real problem, many believe that it can easily be controlled, but the fact is that it can be a serious problem if not consulted with a doctor. Joey eventually gets better help and given a patch that will help him control himself better.

This story ventures into the mind and homelife history of a boy with attention and hyperactivity issues. It introduces parent abandonment (leaving them with a grandparent) and students with special needs. The author builds kid humor into this story while taking an honest look at the steps Joey and his Mother must take to get him back into the regular classroom after an incident in which another student is harmed. There are kind, helpful adults who reach out to connect with and help Joey. This book might be helpful to a student who needs to know he/she is not alone in their condition. It could be helpful to students/teachers who need to develop patience and tolerance for students with special needs.

This is an amazing book, I have recommended it to all my colleagues. I am a parent of a child with ADHD and every word of this book hits home. Everyone should read this book!!

Everyone who deals with children or adults with ADHD should read this book. It is funny, but shows things from the perspective of the person with ADHD. This book was so good I ordered the entire series!

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