

## *Orbiting Jupiter* By Gary D. Schmidt

### *Grade Levels:*

- Grades 6 - 10

### *Synopsis:*

- Joseph is a kid who's experienced a lot of hurt and loss. He learns to love and have hope again with the support of the foster family he goes to live with. Told in son Jackson's voice, follow along to unwrap Joseph's redemptive and tragic story.

### *Author Website:*

- Faculty page at Calvin College - <http://www.calvin.edu/directory/people/gary-schmidt>
- Personal author website - <http://www.hmhbooks.com/schmidt/index.html>

### *Author interview*

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_CXIR6dqGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_CXIR6dqGU)

### *Curricular Connections:*

- Writing with different Point of Views
- Development of a drama
- Character driven writing

*Lesson Ideas:* Note: Book is short – 192 pages. A very fast read for the reluctant reader.

From **Teaching with a Mountain View** blog (<http://www.teachingwithamountainview.com/> )

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B356WaEU9noSal9hdkxXYmhscXM/edit?pref=2&pli=1>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B356WaEU9noSNmE4V1hRYmZsMFk/edit?pref=2&pli=1>

### *Common Core Standards:*

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6](#)  
Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3](#)  
Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3](#)  
Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3](#)  
Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

### *Suggested Companion Titles:*

- *House Arrest* by K. A. Holt
- *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *There Will Be Bears* by Ryan Gebhart

*Professional Reviews:*

- *Booklist* starred (09/01/15)
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (11/01/15)
- *Horn Book Guide* (04/01/16)
- *Kirkus Reviews* starred (07/15/15)
- *Library Media Connection* (12/01/15)
- *Publishers Weekly* starred (08/17/15)
- *School Library Journal* starred (08/01/15)
- *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)* starred (12/01/15)

