

# Where I Live

By Eileen Spinelli

**Contributed by: April Culver**

**Library of Congress Summary:** In a series of poems, Diana writes about her life, both before and after her father loses his job and she and her family move far away to live with Grandpa Joe.

## **Book Information:**

Time Period: Contemporary                      Setting Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Genre: Contemporary Fiction – Novels in Verse

Curriculum Ties: poetry, astronomy

## **Booktalk:**

<http://www.mackinbooktalk.com/viewbook.aspx?BookId=531>

## **Author Information**

[http://www.eileenspinelli.com/heart\\_001.htm](http://www.eileenspinelli.com/heart_001.htm)

This website includes a biography of the author, bibliography, poem of the moth, reviews, writing tips, FAQ's, and fun stuff.

## **Illustrator Information**

<http://www.mattphelan.com>

## Questions:

1. Can you collect jokes?
2. What does “nesting” mean?

3. How would you describe Diana's feelings when Twink told their parents about the winning poem?
4. What makes Rose such a good friend?
5. What do you think makes Diana's mom excited about the fact that there are kids in Diana's grandpa's neighborhood?
6. Why was it hard for Diana to tell Rose that she was moving?
7. Does Mrs. Clifford help Diana by saying, "It's okay to be sad; it's okay to be mad; it's okay to be mixed up."?
8. What do you think made Rose give Diana her purpy flopple?
9. Why did Grandpa Joe paint Diana's room midnight blue?
10. Why does Diana's first night in her new house feel strange?
11. Why does Diana think that her family can move back into their old house?
12. Why did poet, Mary Elmore DeMott, say that Joelle was brave?
13. Why did Twink write a poem for Diana?
14. Do you think Diana and Sam will have a friendship similar to the friendship between Diana and Rose?
15. Why does Diana think she cannot be friends with Sam?
16. How does Diana's mom help Diana sort out her feelings toward her friendship with Sam?
17. How have Diana's feelings about the move her family made changed?

Journal Topics:

Diana says a good day is "when the sky is blue and the sun is bright and Rose and I have plans." Write about what a good day is for you.

If you could make a “care package” like the girls made for Grandpa Joe, who would you give the package and what would you include in the package and why?

Making new friends in new places can be difficult. Make a list for Diana of tips for meeting a new friend.

### Vocabulary:

Astronomy- study of outer space

first mentioned in “Note to My Grandpa”

Autumn- another word referring to the season of “fall” (during the months September, October, November, and December)

first mentioned in “This Is Where I Live”

Chess- game played using strategies to leave one side’s king standing mentioned in “Phone Call”

Divorce- husband and wife splitting up legally

first mentioned in “Something Is Wrong”

Nebula- a cloud in the night sky

first mentioned in “Sleepover 2”

Nesting- birds watching over eggs in nest

first mentioned in “Back Door”

Perseids- shooting stars of August

first mentioned in “Perseids”

Pittsburgh- city in Pennsylvania

first mentioned in “Where Grandpa Joe lives”

Puttering- to work at random

first mentioned in “Wondering”

Scrabble- a game played where words are placed on a board and each word makes up part of another word

first mentioned in “Sleepover 1”

Shutters- wood panels on the outside of windows to block sunlight

first mentioned in “This Is Where I Live”

Telescope- way to look up close at the sky

first mentioned in “The Boy”

Wren- a type of bird

first mentioned in “New Resident”

## Other Works by Eileen Spinelli:

*Princess Pig*

*When Papa Comes*

*Home Tonight*

*Peace Week In Miss  
Fox's Class*

*Two To Cuddle*

*Silly Tilly*

*Hug A Bug*

*The Best Story*

*Callie Cat, Ice Skater*

*Where I Live*

*Someday*

*Summertime House*

*Heat Wave*

*Baby Loves You So  
Much*

*Polar Bear Arctic  
Hare*

*When Christmas Came*

*When You Are Happy*

*Hero Cat*

*I Like Noisy Mom  
Likes Quiet*

*The Best Time Of Day*

*City Angel*

*Feathers - Poems  
About Birds*

*Now It Is Winter*

*I Know It's Autumn*

*While You Are Away*

*Do You Have A Hat?*

*In Our Backyard  
Garden*

*Something To Tell The  
Grandcows*

*Thanksgiving At The  
Tappletons*

*What Do Angels Wear*

*The Perfect  
Thanksgiving*

*Three Pebbles And A  
Song*

*Moe Mcetooth*

*Rise The Moon*

*Bathtime*

*Wanda's Monster*

*Here Comes The Year*

*A Safe Place Called  
Home*

*Kittycat Lullaby*

*Summerbath/Winterbat  
h*

*Sophie's Masterpiece*

*In My New Yellow  
Shirt*

*Song For The  
Whooping Crane*

*Night Shift Daddy*

*Six Hogs On A Scooter*

*Coming Through The  
Blizzard*

*Tea Party Today*

*Lizzie Logan, Second  
Banana*

*Lizzie Logan Gets  
Married*

*Lizzie Logan Wears  
Purple Sunglasses*

*When Mama Comes  
Home Tonight*

*Where Is The Night  
Train Going?*

*Somebody Loves You,  
Mr. Hatch*

## Activities

Write a poem about where you live.

Diana's dad collects jokes. Write a collection of jokes.

## Related Works

*Dancing Pancake* by Eileen Spinelli

*Diamond Willow* by Helen Frost

*Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech

*Zorgamazoo* by Robert Paul Weston

## Additional Websites:

<http://us.penguin.com/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,,9780803731226,00.html>

Summary of story, and a look inside the book

<http://www.oasl.info/conferences/2009/docs/handouts/dj-ThePoetryNovel.pdf>

Bibliography of Poetry Novel/Biography