



What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza)

By Jack Gantos

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Sequel to Joey Pigza Loses Control, a Newbery Honor Book

Are they flirting or fighting? This is Joey Pigza's question when the fireworks suddenly start to explode between his long-separated mom and dad, whom he's never really had a chance to see together. The more out of control his parents get, the less in control Joey feels and the more he wants to help make things better. But Joey's ailing tell-it-like-it-is grandmother wants her grandson to see it like it is with his unpredictable parents. Knowing that she is fading fast, she needs Joey to hurry up and show that he can break the Pigza family mold by making a friend in the outside world. The only potential candidate, however, is Olivia Lapp -- Joey's blind homeschooling partner, who brags that she is "blind as a brat" and acts meaner to Joey the more desperate he gets for her friendship -- even if Joey senses there's more to her than meets the eye.

In this dazzling episode, Jack Gantos's acclaimed hyperactive hero discovers that settling down isn't good for anything if he can't find a way to stop the people he cares about from winding him up all over again.

What Would Joey Do? is a 2003 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza) By Jack Gantos Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Modern literature's unlikely hero Joey Pigza is back in Jack Gantos's grand finale to the award-winning trilogy that began with *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* and the Newbery Honor book *Joey Pigza Loses Control*. Joey, the sweetest, funniest kid on meds you'll ever meet, has enough trouble trying to keep his "active" self together. How can he win in his new, self-assumed role as "Mr. Helpful" when his divorced parents are out of control, his Grandma is surly and morbid, and Olivia, the mean blind girl he's forced to homeschool with, calls him a "hyper retard"? Even Olivia's religious mother can't save him with her "What would Jesus do?" refrain. As his world of flawed adults spins around him in carnivalesque chaos, Joey has to decide on a daily basis what he, Joey, should do. At least he has Pablo, his loyal Chihuahua mutt, his lucky charm. Or at least he does until his maniacal father (complete with restraining order) kidnaps the dog to lure Joey out of the house.

Joey is a wonderful character, and his first-person narrative is both hilarious and heartbreaking. Sadly, it is his dying grandmother who knows him best: "You know, Joey, if you didn't wear those med patches, you'd just be thinking about yourself, and you wouldn't care about making everyone happy. Your problem is that you got better, and the rest of the world didn't." While it is more rewarding to have read the previous Joey books before this one, it is not mandatory. Still, all three Joey books are memorable, honest, fresh, exciting, truly eye-opening, and should not be missed by child or adult. (Ages 10 and older) --*Karin Snelson*

From Publishers Weekly

This fall offers fans a fresh crop of sequels. The final title in the Joey Pigza saga, *What Would Joey Do?* by Jack Gantos, finds the hero flustered by his parent's questionable reunion and his ailing grandmother's efforts to push Joey to make friends. (Oct.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8-Joey's back, and this time he's not doing as much of the "weird Joey stuff" as usual. Now that he's ready to be "Mr. Helpful," it seems that everyone around him needs more help than he can give. His mom and dad have crazy fights involving motorcycle crashes, kidnapped Chihuahuas, and a restraining order. Joey's new homeschool partner is Olivia, a blind girl who earns the title of "Mistress of All Evil," and whose fundamentalist mother teaches them. And Grandma, the person who best understands Joey, is dying. The boy's first-person narration is as frenetically fun as it was in the first two books. Here, though, his energy and insights are turned more on those around him, and he turns out to be terrifically perceptive. His observations are totally believable because he vividly recalls (and sometimes still indulges in) dysfunctional behavior. His ability to connect with several diversely troubled personalities sets up many humorous scenes. A convoluted, but oddly logical scheme involving Olivia, Grandma, and tickets to *Godspell* culminates in the boy's touching (and very funny) first date. By book's end, Joey has lost a loved one, but he has gained enough confidence, and even wisdom, to look out for himself without letting his external problems overwhelm him or hold him back. Readers who don't know Joey will have no trouble jumping right in with this book, and those who have met him in the previous books will enjoy the way "Mr. Helpful" tries to set things right in a chaotic and uniquely amusing world.

Steven Engelfried, Beaverton City Library, OR

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jacquelyn Lopez:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

Dwayne Moseley:

The reason? Because this What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book get such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Stacey Eades:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a guide we can know everything you want. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza) was filled about science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like currently, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Charles Brewster:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person such as reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update concerning something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually What Would Joey Do? (Joey Pigza).

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