

question	answer	page
Who is the author of Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key?	Jack Gantos	cover
What did people say about Joey Pigza?	He was wired?	3
Why did Joey have trouble after lunch?	His meds wore off.	3
What was Joey's teacher's name?	Mrs. Maxy	3
What subject in school was Joey good at?	math	3
What did Joey always say when his mom or teacher asked him a question?	Can I get back to you on that?	3
What was the name of the teacher in the classroom next to Mrs. Maxy?	Mrs. Deebs	4
Why did Joey live with his grandma?	His dad left when he was in kindergarten and his mom followed him.	7
Why was Joey Pigza wired?	His dad, Carter Pigza, and his grandma were also wired.	9
Where did Carter Pigza move to?	Pittsburgh	9
What did Joey's grandma's house look like when she lived there?	Messy, nothing finished, things scattered around	10
Why did Joey's grandma start painting his bedroom Placid Pink?	She heard the color pink would calm him down.	11
What feeling did Joey think the color pink gave off?	calm	12
What dangerous thing did Joey's grandma try to get him to do when she was mad at him?	Make him get inside the refrigerator	13
What did Joey's mom say was the difference between the way Joey was active and the way his grandma was active?	He was active in his feet, and his grandma was active in her mouth	14
What did Joey's mom tell him was Rule #1?	Slow down and think about what you're doing.	16
What did the teachers ask Joey to do when it rained?	Go into the parking lot and roll up all their windows on their cars	18
What was Joey famous for in the classroom?	Snatching flies out of the air with his hand, killing the spiders, and making sure the mice were in cages.	18

What did Joey's grandma do with the reports the special counselor sent home about Joey?	Threw them in the trash	19
What did Joey's grandma make him do with a broom?	Sweep the sidewalk all the way around the block.	21
Who was the class president in Joey's classroom?	Maria Dombrowski	21
What did Joey do with the two pieces of chalk he sharpened?	Stuck them under his lip to look like fangs	21
What hockey team did Joey like?	The Pittsburgh Penguins	22
What was Maria's job as class president?	To make sure everyone had good behavior	22
How did Joey hurt himself with the pencil sharpener?	He stuck his little finger into the pencil sharpener and cut it.	23
What was Joey's school nurse's name?	Nurse Holyfield	24
Where did Joey's mom work?	In a beauty parlor called Beauty and the Beast	28
What did Joey's mom call her medicine?	Amaretto	26
What did some kids on Joey's street call him?	Zippy	27
What did Joey do with all the cotton stuffing he pulled out of chair in the pharmacy?	Hid it in his pants and then dropped it on the way home a little at a time.	27-28
What fairy tale pair left bread crumbs to find their way home?	Hansel and Gretel	28
What did Joey mix with her Amaretto?	Mountain Dew	28
Why did the doctor at the clinic say Joey's meds work sometimes and not other times?	He was going through early puberty so his blood was half boy and half man.	29
Why did the school nurse say Joey's meds didn't always work?	They were cheap	29
Where did Joey's grandma go when she left him and his mom?	To Pittsburgh to live with her son (Joey's dad)	29
What book did Mrs. Maxy get the spelling words?	The Great Gilly Hopkins	30

What did Joey do with the brass key he wore around his neck on a string?	Swallowed it and kept pulling it back up.	31
What things was Joey NOT allowed to do when he got home 2 hours before his mom?	Light the gas stove, take a bath, make crank phone calls to strangers, or throw the baseball at the walls.	31
What was the name of the kid who tied a leash around Joey's neck and made him do dog tricks?	Ford	31
What picture did Joey carry around to help him control himself?	A picture of himself standing still with his hands at his side, looking at the camera.	32
Who told Joey he would give him a dollar if Joey swallowed his key?	Seth Justman	33
Why did Nurse Holyfield give Ipecac to Joey to make him throw up?	He swallowed his brass house key because Mrs. Maxy had cut the string off it.	33
What did Mrs. Jarzab do for work?	She was the school principal	34
What card game did Joey's grandma teach him to play?	poker	34
What color was Mrs. Howard's special ed room?	Bright yellow	36
What did Mrs. Howard call step number one for Joey in her special ed classroom?	To sit in the Big Quiet Chair to find out how long he could sit still.	38
Why couldn't Joey make the big Quiet Chair move?	It was bolted to the floor	38
What did Mrs. Howard make Joey wear on his feet until he could stop kicking?	bunny rabbit slippers	39
How did Joey finally get his house key back?	He pooped it out.	42
What did Mrs. Maxy do after Joey swallowed his key again and pulled it back up?	Hung it on her bulletin board until afternoon when they went home?	44
Why couldn't Harold blow out the candles on his birthday cake?	He was in a neck brace.	46
What did Joey do to help Harold?	Blew out the candles on his birthday cake.	46

What did Joey ask his mom if he ate when he was a baby?	Paint chips	48
What did Joey ask his mom if she did while pregnant with him?	Drank a lot of alcohol	49
What did Joey's mom usually drink each night?	A glass of wine and an Amaretto sour	49
Why did Joey ask if his mom drank alcohol while she was pregnant with him?	He heard a mom in the special ed classroom say the new boy was messed up from his mom drinking too much when he was the size of a peanut.	50
What did Mrs. Howard call Kerwin Klump?	My cute little lump	51
Why did they put a fake fire alarm in the specials room?	So Kerwin Klump could pull it without setting off the real school fire alarm.	51
Where did all the 4th and 5th grade classes go for a field trip?	An Amish farm	54
What was the best part of Joey's day when they went on the field trip?	Sticking his head out the window of the bus like a dog	54
Where have the Amish people lived in Pennsylvania since the 1700s?	In Lancaster County	55
What foods do Amish people make?	Butter, cheese, bread, biscuits, jams, jellies, and molasses shoofly pie.	57
What did Joey think molasses shoofly pie was made of?	Shoes, flies, and molasses	57
Why did Mrs. Maxy give Joey an apple and not let him have any shoofly pie on the Amish farm?	She thought the pie had too much sugar and would make him more wild.	58
What did all the kids in Joey's class get to do with the Amish girls, except for him?	Carve pumpkins because his teacher said it would be too dangerous for him to have a knife.	59
What did Joey do when Mrs. Maxy told him to go sit in a time-out on the bus?	He snuck around to the front door of the farmhouse, went inside, and took a whole shoofly pie and ate it in the corn field.	61
What did Joey Pigza do after he ate an entire shoofly pie?	He climbed up into the rafters of the barn where there was a white owl, and then he walked across one of the beams.	64

What happened to Joey when he jumped from the beams of the barn into the hay?	He twisted his ankle	65
What did Mrs. Maxy tell Maria Dombrowski to keep a list of at the field trip?	Everyone who got out of line.	66
Who was the substitute teacher when Mrs. Maxy had a conference to talk about Joey?	Miss Adams	67
Why were the gifted and talented students released from class?	To go to the auditorium for a special presentation by an author on character.	68
Who was the author of the book on character counting?	Mrs. Cole	68
What did Mrs. Cole call the talented and gifted children?	The cream of the crop	68
What present did Joey put in Miss Holyfield's desk drawer?	A slice of cinnamon apple	71
What did Joey decide to make in order to change the world for the better?	Bumper stickers that said 'Hate is not a Family Value'	72
Why did Joey want to make the bumper stickers?	His mom saw one on a car at work and said she wished she had a million of them to put on all the cars in the world.	72
Why did Joey go and get Mrs. Maxy's secret special-sharp scissors that no one was supposed to use except for her?	The scissors he was using on the thick poster board kept twisting and hurting his fingers.	73
What happened after Joey got Mrs. Maxy's sharp scissors from her desk?	He ran, tripped on the ear of his bunny slippers, and cut off the end of Maria Dombrowski's nose.	74
What was Joey Pigza's mom's name?	Fran	77
Where did Joey have to go after he accidentally cut off Maria Dombrowski's nose?	To Lancaster County Special Education Center to get intensive counseling	79
How long did Joey have to be suspended from school because he had hurt another student?	Six weeks	80
Why did Joey save the french fries in the middle for last?	They didn't crunch when he bit them so he saved them for last like a vegetable.	81

How far did Joey walk to get to Maria's house to apologize to her?	10 blocks	83
Why wasn't Joey able to take a bunch of meds to try to become normal after he came home upset after going to Maria's house?	It was one of his mom's rules to bring his meds to work with her.	85-86
What were the two presents Joey's mom gave him?	Advice - whenever he thought of something bad, he had to quickly think of something good...and never think of 3 things bad in a row 2) A book about dogs	87
Where did Joey's dad bounce around before moving to Pittsburgh?	The Polish-American club	88
What did Joey's mom promise him if he did good in special ed?	A dog	88
What kind of dog did Joey want?	A chihuahua	88
What did the bus look like that picked Joey up to go to the special ed center?	It was blue and white	89
What did the bus driver ask Joey when he picked him up the first day that upset Joey?	Are you the foster kid?	90
What was the name of the first boy Joey made friends with at the special ed center who had undeveloped arms and hands?	Charlie	92
What were the names of the twins who read everything backwards?	May and June	94
What two words did Joey feel like he was trapped between?	Run or stay	94
What did the bus driver do that tempted Joey to run away?	He opened the door at the railroad tracks to listen for trains.	94
What did most people call Mr. Ed Vanness, the case worker at Lancaster County Special Education Center?	Special Ed	96
What did Special Ed say about Jason climbing up a metal ramp with metal braces?	It was like Joey or himself climbing Mount Everest	96
What did Special Ed tell Joey his job was?	To help him learn to make better choices and go back to his regular school.	97

What did Joey think Lancaster County Special Education Center smelled like?	A hospital because of all the medicines	98
Who was the receptionist at the Beauty and the Beast hair salon?	Tiffany	101
What did Joey sometimes do when he really wanted to talk to his mom at work?	Hung up and called back over and over again until she came to the phone.	101
Why did Joey have a bald spot?	He had a nervous habit of picking at his head	104
What was something in Joey's home life that needed to change for him to get better?	His diet--he needed to eat vegetables, salads, grains, and vitamins.	106
Why did Joey eat a Reese's peanut butter cup every morning?	His mom said peanut butter was good for him.	106
Where did Maria Dombrowski go after she recovered?	To a Catholic school	109
What did Mrs. Maxy bring to Joey's house?	School work to do so he wouldn't be too far behind when he came back to his regular school, and a gold star on his forehead for shifting gears	109-110
What did Joey do with the bandaids when special Ed left the room?	He got all of them and stuck 20 of them to his chest and belly.	113
What was the name of the doctor that Joey liked because he admitted it was his own fault for being late?	Dr. Preston	113
What did Joey's grandma make him do when he was on a bus and had to go to the bathroom?	Pee in a Coke bottle	114
Where did Dr. Preston send Joey to get a brain SPECT test?	Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh	115
What did Dr. Preston think when he saw bandaids all over Joey's chest and belly?	That he had been abused.	116
What did Grandma use to beat on Joey if he wouldn't bark and act like a dog?	A fly swatter	116
Why was Joey excited about riding on a Greyhound bus?	It was a big bus and was named after a dog.	120

Why did Joey's mom know where the best place to sit on a bus was?	She and Joey's dad took a lot of busses to Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other places.	120
Which kind of dog had fur on the top of its head and looked like troll doll to Joey's mom?	The Chinese crested	121
Where did Joey's grandma get the free candy she gave him if he begged and whined like a dog?	From a fish bowl full of free candy at the bank where she cashed her Social Security check.	123
What cruel thing did Joey's grandma do to him to make him behave at home?	Pretend his mom was on the phone and would come home only if she sat still and didn't move.	123
What did Joey want a puppy to do every day?	Wait for him by the window.	125
How did Joey feel when he was in the brain scan machine?	Like his brain was a honeycomb full of bees.	131
What did Joey do in the hospital gift shop?	Spun the wire postcard rack until all the cards came flying out all over the floor, and then he got on his hands and knees and put postcards in his mouth like a dog.	133
Where did Joey and his mom go in Pittsburgh where you could see the whole city?	The Sky Deck of the PPG building	134
Why did Joey want to look through the telescope on the Sky Deck of the PPG building?	To try and find his dad	135
Why didn't Joey's mom want him to meet his dad?	She was afraid his dad would be drunk and mean.	136
What change did the doctors make to Joey's meds that helped him?	They gave him a transdermal patch so he would get a steady dose of meds all day long.	139
What picture did Joey make on his stomach with bandaids?	A dog's face	140
Why did Joey's mom say she liked Dr. Preston and Special Ed?	She liked people who liked Joey.	142
What did Joey like that made his mom seasick?	elevators	143
Why did Joey say he wanted a chihuahua?	They're nervous and yap a lot	144

Why did Joey consider getting a wolf type dog?	It might eat his Grandma like the wolf in the story of Little Red Riding Hood.	144
What was the name of the free newspaper where Joey and his mom found an ad for a half Chihuahua and half dachshund dog?	The Thrifty Nickel	145
What did Joey name his new dog?	Pablo Pigza - PR for short	145
What did Pablo do every day?	He sat on the windowsill and waited for Joey to come home, and he yapped at everyone who went by.	145
When was Charlie able to leave the Lancaster Special Ed center?	When he built enough strength in one of his hands so they could attach a plastic arm over it that he could control.	148
What did Joey say after Mrs. Jarzab and Mrs. Maxy said he could come back to school as long as he took his meds and lived by the rules?	I love rules.	149
Why did Joey make rules for Pablo?	Pablo chewed stuff and pooped on the floor so Joey taught him to only chew dog toys and poop in the front yard.	149
What did Joey want to do when he got back to school that he never had done before?	Say the Pledge of Allegiance on the loudspeaker.	149
What did Joey show Nurse Holyfield he could do, now that he had the patch?	He sat and stared at a painting of a clown with an old shoe for a hat and didn't move.	150
What was Joey's birthday wish for Harold that did not come true?	That he would be able to get out of the neck brace and wheelchair and play football.	152
What did Harold's mom tell Joey that made him feel good?	Joey gave her hope because if he could do it, maybe Harold could too some day.	153
What did Harold's mom say to Joey was the nicest thing a non-family person had ever said to him?	You are naturally good. You have a good heart.	153