**Superstar**  
*Mandy Davis*

**GENRE:** Contemporary Realistic Fiction  
**LEXILE:** 580

**RELEVANT WEBSITES:**  
[Author Website]  
[GoodReads]  
[NASA Website]

**BOOK SUMMARY:** Ten year old Lester and his mom, Lucy, move to Indiana where he enrolls in the 5th grade after being home educated. The culture shock is magnified by his undiagnosed autistic tendencies. His father, a Purdue-educated astronaut, was killed on a mission five years ago; and both of them are still working through their grief. Themes: autism/grief/friendship/bullying/science

**BOOKTALK:**  
Lester’s dad, a Purdue educated astronaut, was killed five years ago when his shuttle blew up in space as he and his mom watched on television. Trying to fit into a 5th grade class after being home educated is challenging—especially with the quirks that come with being on the autism spectrum. Read about Lester’s trials with bullies, friendships, science fairs, and applying the scientific method to kickball. This book is truly a *Superstar!*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
1. Why did Abby choose a friendship with Mona over Lester, and what changed her mind? What is most important thing to you in friendships? *(Superstar p.300)*
2. Discuss the quirks that qualify Lester for an autism diagnosis and how they affect his school relationships. What are your quirks?
3. Grief affects everyone differently. How do you feel Lester’s mom dealt with her grief in the beginning of the book versus the end?
4. What might have been the outcome if Lester kicked a homerun in the class kickball game? *(p. 311)*
5. Discuss Ricky’s character. What do you think made him a class bully?

**IF YOU ENjoyED THIS, YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:**
1. *Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff  
2. *Rain Reign* by Ann Martin  
3. *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
4. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

**ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:** Anne Guthrie/Children’s Librarian/Greenwood Public Library