

Booktalk!

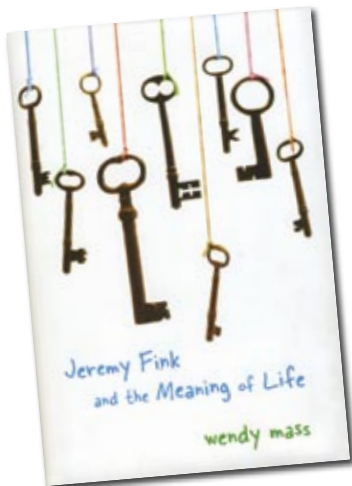
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life

by Wendy Mass

Booktalk!

Twelve-year-old Jeremy Fink's sweat smells like peanut butter. Jeremy Fink's best friend is a girl. Jeremy Fink's mother is a librarian. And Jeremy Fink's father is dead.

It's been five long years since Jeremy's father passed away at the age of 39 in a car accident. Then, suddenly, it's as if he is standing beside his son again: A mysterious package arrives, a gorgeous wooden box beautifully engraved with a message Jeremy knows only his dad could have penned: THE MEANING OF LIFE: FOR JEREMY FINK TO OPEN ON HIS THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY. It has three locks: one on the front and one on each side of the box. But where are the keys? There are none. And the local locksmith refuses to break in.



Appropriate for
grades 6 – 8

So begins a most unusual quest, orchestrated by an older gentleman named Oswald. As Jeremy, with best buddy Lizzy, moves ever closer to the keys, he also moves ever closer to the center of that most elusive concept Jeremy's Dad so fervently wished his son to explore.

Jeremy is a curious, thoughtful and thoroughly likable kid. After all, who could resist a boy who maintains a Mutant Candy Collection and has a mean way with a hula hoop? Readers will laugh along with their new friend as he journeys ever closer to the truth, and they'll root for him, too — every step of the way.