ADHD: Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (Novel)
Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective
Gain a better understanding of ADHD and its impact on a student’s behavior.

Synopsis
No matter how hard he tries, Joey Pigza simply cannot seem to stay out of trouble. From swallowing his house key to injuring a classmate, Joey creates many problems for his teachers and family, who are at their wits’ end. Written from Joey’s point of view, this book offers readers a glimpse of what it is like to have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Activity
Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.
Title: Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (1998)
Author: Jack Gantos
Publisher: Harper Trophy • New York

Questions/Discussion Topics
1. How did Joey injure his finger?
2. What characteristics does Joey share with his grandmother and dad?
3. What happened in the “scissors incident” and what was the consequence?
4. What good thing happens to Joey at Lancaster County Special Education Center?
5. Having seen things from Joey’s point of view, do you now have a different perspective on students with ADHD? If so, explain?

For Your Information
To learn more about autism spectrum disorder, visit:

- What Is Autism? (Understood)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Fact Sheet (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)