

Our Lady of Mercy High School
2020 Summer Reading
9th Grade

English Department Reading

Based on their scheduled class, all incoming freshmen are to read and answer the following questions. During the first week of the new school year, all English classes will have assessments on the books read. The questions on the English books will be due during the first week. You must type the answers. **Please** be brief, use your own words, and avoid such publications as Cliff Notes. We hope your reading will be pleasurable. The summer reading for English 9 is *Stargirl* and for **Honors** English 9 it is *A Separate Peace*.

English 9 Assignment

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Please complete the following assignment by the first full day of school. This assignment **MUST** be typed and printed. **Quality** is more important than quantity.

1. Define the following terms:

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|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. Setting | d. Antagonist |
| b. Character Trait | e. Theme |
| c. Protagonist | f. Figurative Language |

2. Setting: Give time and place and any major changes of setting.

3. Characters Analysis: Name and briefly describe the following characters: (3-5 sentences each). Go beyond their physical description and discuss their personality traits, role in the novel, etc.

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|-------------|-----------------|
| a. Leo | c. Hillari |
| b. Stargirl | d. Mr. Robineau |

4. Conflict: Who do you think is the protagonist? Who or what do you think is the antagonist? What are the basic problems (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. himself) and how are they resolved?

5. Theme: What is the underlying message or meaning of the book? Theme is expressed by completing this sentence with a complete thought statement: "The theme of the novel is that _____." (For example, "The theme of the novel is that good is more prevalent than evil among people.")

6. Point of View: Who tells the story? How are events and the theme influenced by the narrator's point of view?

7. Quote: Select one quotation from the story that seems to "say it all." This should be something someone says, which really gets to the heart of the book's meaning.

8. Figurative Language: Jerry Spinelli, the author of *Stargirl*, uses figurative language in his novel. One example is the metaphor of the Mud Frog mascot. Explain this metaphor and find a quote from the novel to support your analysis.

Honors English 9 Assignment

A Separate Peace by John Knowles ISBN# 0743253973

Type the answers to the questions for each book you read following the form below using the numbers and headings. **Quality** is more important than quantity. Every question, except #5, can be answered in a meaningful sentence or two.

1. **Setting:** Give time and place and any major changes of setting.
2. **Characters:** Name and briefly describe all major characters.
3. **Conflict:** Who is the protagonist? Who or what is the antagonist? What is the basic problem (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. himself) and how is it resolved?
4. **Theme:** What is the underlying message or meaning of the book? Theme is expressed by completing this sentence with a complete thought: "The theme of the novel is that _____." (For example, "The theme of the novel is that good is more prevalent than evil among people.")
5. **Point of View:** Who tells the story? How are events and the theme influenced by the narrator's point of view? Keep in mind that the narrator may or may not be a character.
6. **Quote:** Select one quotation from the story that seems to "say it all." This should be something someone says, which really gets to the heart of the book's meaning, which is stated in your response to question four.
7. **Figurative Language:** Choose two figures of speech that the author uses especially well. Tell what they mean and how they contribute to the theme of the novel, which is stated in your response to question four.