

**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School**  
**2021 Summer Reading**  
**9th Grade**

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*. Both assignments are listed below.

**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: 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. 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

Read John Knowles's *A Separate Peace* by the first day of class. I suggest that you take notes while reading the book, especially if you plan to complete the summer reading assignment well in advance of the first day of school. "I read the book so long ago that I cannot remember it" will not be an acceptable excuse when you return to school. Please bring a copy of the book on the first day of class. *A Separate Peace* may be found at local bookstores or on the Internet.

**Assignment:**

There will be a test and an in-class essay within the first week of school. I suggest that you take notes while reading the book. *Highlight* critical elements of the plot and write short notes explaining why you highlighted those elements, so you have a condensed version of the novel to review when studying. This way you can skim your highlights to refresh your memory of what happened instead of the whole novel, or summary websites that leave out key details. Circle and define words that you do not recognize.