

Welcome to 7th Grade!

Required Summer Reading

Over the summer, all students rising into grade 7 are required to read Stargirl by award winning author, Jerry Spinelli. The book will be given to current students through the library.

After reading Stargirl, write a reflection or response letter to the novel and bring it with you on the first day of school. I want you to know, I am most interested in your personal responses to the book. What surprised you? What are your thoughts and feelings about the author's message? What parts of the book puzzled you or made you question yourself or others? What did you think of the characters' behavior and actions? What connections can you make to the story? In your response include enough detail so I know you read carefully, but remember this is **not** a summary of the plot...**I want to know what you think and why you think certain things**, not, on a simple factual level, what the book is about.

Your letter should be about one and a half pages handwritten, one page typed. If handwritten, please use blue or black pen. **This response will be your first grade in English this year.**

Here are some suggestions for what you can include in your reflection letter.

Pick one or two; you do NOT need to write about all of them:

- Stargirl does things without thinking or caring what others think of her. For example, she frequently sings in the lunchroom. What does this show us about the character's personality? How would you feel if someone at ISB behaved like Stargirl? Why? Write about one thing that you do despite what others think about it.
- The students at Mica High School have never known anyone like Stargirl. "Different" barely begins to describe her. At first loved and popular; she ultimately experiences hurt and disappointment. Nevertheless, many people will look at Stargirl and think it is better to be different--and true to yourself--than try to be like everyone else. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Do you, as a reader, like Stargirl? If you were a student at Mica High, would you reach out to her like Dori Dilson, or reject her like Hillari Kimble? Do you think the students of Mica High are ultimately too harsh on Stargirl? Explain.
- Popularity, fitting in, and "sameness" are all key themes in Stargirl. Find places in the novel that reinforce these themes and discuss. Do you think Stargirl ever wanted to be popular? Why or why not? How might she define popularity? How do you define popularity?

Want to learn more about Jerry Spinelli? - Check out: www.jerryspinelli.com.