

A Sample Book Review...

[Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man](#) by Fannie Flagg

Reviewed by Rachel B.

This book, *Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man*, starts out with an eleven year old girl named Daisy Fay Harper, living in the fifties. It starts when she is eleven and goes until she is about eighteen. It is told by her, it is her journal for about seven years. She has a friend named Jimmy Snow.

Her parents get divorced when she is little but most of her adventures start when she is a young teen. For instance, this guy dies, she gets followed by someone, she does a play and the audience tries to attack her. Strange. The older she gets, the more fun weird, and hilarious adventures and realistic problems she gets into.

How many books have you read, that are about someone's life, and isn't based around one little (or big) problem? No one's life has one problem. It describes how she feels, real emotions that teens feel and what happens in a teenager's life and the difficult problems they get into to. She has good times; they throw her a big "this is your life party", but she also has bad times, like losing friends or family members. Even though the book takes place in the fifties, similar things happen now. I think this book is good for most ages from 11 years old. Once I got into it, I felt I knew her, or everything that happened to her, I experienced. The author made it very clear what age the narrator was by her writing style and what she wrote about. The narrator's writing got more mature as she got older.

Read these and other sample reviews at <http://library.thinkquest.org/4155/>.

Parents should be involved in the selection of their child's summer reading. Book reviews are available on the district website.

[Http://www.newberry.k12.sc.us](http://www.newberry.k12.sc.us)

Summer reading book reviews will be due to the English teacher no later than the second Friday of the new school year. Reviews will be weighted as a major test/project grade. All honors students are expected to read two books and write two reviews.



School District f Newberry County



Middle School Summer Reading List

Sixth Grade Books

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Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor—When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

There's A Boy in the Girl's Bathroom by Louis Sachar—An unmanageable but loveable eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is sort of a misfit, too.

Yolanda's Genius by Carol Fenner—After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolanda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius.

The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson—The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

See You Around, Sam! By Lois Lowry—Sam Krupnik, mad at his mother because she won't let him wear his new plastic fangs in the house, decides to run away to Alaska.

Lizzie at Last! By Claudia Mills—Lizzie, who has always been considered a nerd by the other kids, begins the seventh grade determined to change her image so that she can blend in better with the popular crowd.

The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine by Diane Stanly—Noticing that a popular series of horror novels is having a bizarre effect on its readers, Franny and Beamer set out to find the mysterious author.

Jackie and Me by Dan Gutman—With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson, turning into a black boy in the process.

Cousins by Virginia Hamilton—Concerned that her grandmother may die, Cammy is unprepared for the accidental death of another relative.

Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd by Mame Farrell—Hannah Billings hates being teased about marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd, the most unpopular and misunderstood boy in her sixth-grade class, until he reveals his true personality when her brother succumbs to muscular dystrophy.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton—Bethany Hamilton is a teenage surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii. Not even the loss of her arm keeps her from returning to surfing, the sport she loves.

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli—David is essentially an orphan—he has an absentee father and his mother recently died in an accident. Primrose, David's elder by four years, has a fortune teller mother who lives in her own world and a father who only exists in a framed picture. Somehow, the pair help each other find what is missing in their lives.

Assassin by Ann Myers—Would you betray your president to win the heart of America's most celebrated actor? When John Wilkes Booth sets his eyes on Belle for help with kidnapping Abraham Lincoln, she betrays her president and the boy she has loved her whole life.

Small Steps by Louis Sachar—(*sequel to Holes*) Armpit is home in Austin, Texas and trying to turn his life around. It's hard when you have a record and everyone expects the worst from you.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi—This action-packed adventure will transport the reader back to 14-century England, where a young serf of the run from his miserable past comes to discover not only his identity but a sense of self-worth.

ASSIGNMENT

As a response to your summer reading, you will compose a **book review** to present to your English class. A book review should provide an **overview of the contents** of the book, as well as its **strengths and weaknesses**. This is a personal piece of writing and is really an expression of your opinion of the book.

Things to think about while writing:

- Do you agree or disagree with the author's views? Why or why not?
- Was the book well written?
- Would you recommend the book to anyone else? Why or why not and to whom: a friend, someone older, someone younger, a teacher, etc.?
- Did you learn anything from the book? Did it have a message?
- What was your first reaction to the book? Did your feelings change while you read?
- Would you change the ending of the book? Why or why not?

Reading is to the
mind what exercise
is to the body.

~Joseph Addison

