

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. Book 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 of Newberry County



Middle School
Summer
Reading List

Eighth Grade Books

Eighth Grade Books

ASSIGNMENT

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz—After the death of the uncle who has been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle’s dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency, MI6.

On My Honor by Marian Dane Bauer—When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck—During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman. The sequel to *A Long Way from Chicago*

Redwall by Brian Jacques—The epic story of a bumbling young mouse who rises up, fights back...and becomes a legend himself.

Dork in Disguise by Carol Gorman—Starting middle school in a new town, brainy Jerry Flack changes his image from “dork” to “cool kid”, only to discover that he’d rather be himself.

Dicey’s Song by Cynthia Voigt—Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dice learns that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage. (*Part of a series. Students can read any book of the series for credit.*)

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli—In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, and eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High forever.

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen—In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene—Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas.

The Mississippi Trial, 1955 by Chris Crowe—In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago.

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli—He’s a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He’s a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He’s a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He’s a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he’s a boy who realizes it’s safest of all to be nobody.

Double Dutch by Sharon Draper—Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their home town of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy’s missing father, Delia’s inability to read, and Yo Yo’s encounter with the class bullies.

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank—The journal of a Jewish girl in her early teens describes both the joys and the torments of daily life, as well as typical adolescent thoughts, throughout two years spent in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix—Thirteen-year-old Bethany’s parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln and Chris Collier—Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution, when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson—In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of yellow fever epidemic.

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

