

Summer Reading For Incoming Freshmen  
Saint Cecilia Academy  
Summer 2009

Welcome to St. Cecilia! We hope that you have already cultivated a love for reading, but if not yet, perhaps we can help you. The books you are required to read for this summer, as well as the assignments to cultivate your understanding of the books, follow.

***All assignments are due the first day of school and should be turned in when you report to your English class.***

- 1) *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (This powerful novel explores the strength of friendship and the destructive power of jealousy.)
- 2) *Driving Miss Daisy* by Alfred Uhry. (This engaging play illustrates the potential for closed minds to be opened by love.)

As you read, keep a log. The log should be typed. You should have a total of ten entries per book, so divide the book accordingly. Each entry should be typed as its own page. Please combine the ten total entries for each book and put a cover sheet on top with the following information: your first and last name, book title & author, and "English I". Each entry should include four parts: The book's title and page numbers for that entry, character names and descriptions, a plot summary (ideas may be bulleted), and thematic idea(s) with relevant quote(s) and page number(s). Here is a sample entry:

	Title and Pages: <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> , pages 1-5
Characters:	Miss Daisy – Widow, 72, Jewish, feisty, struggling to maintain independence. Boolie – Her son, 40, businessman, caring but controlling.
Plot:	Miss Daisy had an accident Boolie want to hire a chauffeur Miss Daisy looks down on people of other races and religions but won't admit it. Boolie plans to hire a driver whether Miss Daisy wants one or not.
Theme:	Independence is not easily surrendered. "I am seventy-two years old...and a widow, but unless they rewrote the Constitution and didn't tell me, I still have rights" (3-4) Prejudice prevents people from seeing the good in one another. "What I do not want ...is some – chauffeur sitting in my kitchen, gobbling up my food, running up my phone bill." (4)

- 3) *The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl On the Other Side of the Sky* by Ahmedi with Tamin Ansary.

**Assignment:**

You do not need to make a ten-entry reading log for this book, only the first two books. **Instead...**

- Write a letter to Farah Ahmedi explaining how her book surprised you or inspired you. What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before? (400 words)
- The letter should be typed, using appropriate grammar, spelling and mechanics of English usage. You are welcome to be creative in using various fonts, graphics, etc.