

Interview with Mary Ford Fitzjurls  
Friday, May 11, 2018  
[@seemaryread](#)

Helen Rentz had the opportunity to speak with Frederica Academy student Mary Ford Fitzjurls about her new venture on Instagram reviewing books for Middle Grade readers. Mary Ford, a fourth grader, has been reading books for as long as she remembers. With a hunger for reading and a love of sharing her passion with friends, Mary Ford began her blog earlier this year with the help of her mom, Misty Leigh Williams. While Mary Ford assumes the book reader and critic role, her mom assists with the technical aspects of managing a social media account. When deciding on books to review, Mary Ford likes to tie it in to what's going on in her world, like recommending *A Wrinkle in Time* before the movie came out, or an ocean book for Earth Day. She even reviewed [Paperboy](#) when author Vince Vawter visited Frederica Academy to talk with Middle School and Upper School students about his work.

Read along as we learn more about Mary Ford's new project and favorite pastime!

**Mrs. Rentz:** Good morning, Mary Ford. Tell our readers about your Instagram account.

**Mary Ford:** It's called [@seemaryread](#). For each post, I include a picture of me reading the book, a review, a really good quote for the book, and then a picture of me as a baby reading a baby book.

**Mrs. Rentz:** Where did you get the idea to start a book review blog on Instagram?

**Mary Ford:** Well, my friend's parents are always asking about good books that I've read and so my mom said why don't you start a blog about all of the books that you've read. So it's an easy way to share with everyone great books to read.

**Mrs. Rentz:** What is your favorite book you have reviewed?

**Mary Ford:** I have a couple. The first one is [Serafina and the Black Cloak](#) by Robert Beatty, and the second one is *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. These are both mysteries. I really like mysteries.

**Mrs. Rentz:** What is the earliest memory you have of reading?

**Mary Ford:** When I was two, I used to read my dad's newspapers.

**Mrs. Rentz:** On your blog, do you have any followers that surprised you?

**Mary Ford:** Yes, actually I have a lot of followers who are authors and publishers of the books that I have reviewed. And, an author recently sent me a book to read and review!

**Mrs. Rentz:** What is the next book you plan to review?

- Mary Ford:** The next post will feature *Glow* which is about the radium girls. But the next book I plan to review is *The Key to Extraordinary* by Natalie Floyd. It's about a girl whose mother dies and her father moves away and now she lives next to a cemetery. Weird things have been happening in the cemetery so it's up to her to find out what is happening and who has been causing these problems.
- Mrs. Rentz:** Where is your favorite place to read and why?
- Mary Ford:** Anywhere! But my favorite is either here at school or at my house on the couch. When I'm reading at my house I feel very close to my family and it makes me feel happy to just relax. When I read here at Frederica, I really like it because I feel like my friends are all around me, and it just feels comfortable. And if I laugh at a book, I get to tell my friends what happened.
- Mrs. Rentz:** Where is the strangest place you've read a book?
- Mary Ford:** One time we were in Chicago and I brought my book along with me and there was a huge wait to use the bathroom, so I just read my book while I waited in line!
- Mrs. Rentz:** Do you have a new favorite reading buddy?
- Mary Ford:** Oh yeah! My new puppy, Luna, from Frederica's Derby Day.
- Mrs. Rentz:** What is your favorite genre of book to read?
- Mary Ford:** Mystery for sure. I like to try and figure the mystery out before the characters do.
- Mrs. Rentz:** What is your favorite book of all time?
- Mary Ford:** Either *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor or *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper.
- Mrs. Rentz:** What is something you would like to share with anyone who may not have seen your Instagram?
- Mary Ford:** If you're looking for a good book, you should read my Instagram!

[Tip: Check out Mary Ford's Instagram [@seemaryread](https://www.instagram.com/seemaryread) to learn more about all of these books and more!]