Forman, Gayle. <u>If I Stay.</u> 199p.

Recommended for Grades 9-12
Realistic Fiction

Seventeen-year-old Mia gets into a horrible car accident that will change her life forever. Stuck in a coma between life and death, her mind wanders through her past life events. She can't remember much from the accident except that she and her family were driving in the car in Oregon and now she is lying here watching herself deal with the damage her body has taken. She is the only one from her family who made it out of the crash alive. She has many big choices to make in her life that will have a big impact on her future, first being whether to fight for her life or not. During the story Mia deals with many issues from how to deal with her family's death to how to move forward with her remaining relationships. Even though her family is dead she still has her best friend Kim and her boyfriend Adam. The story goes back to her love of music and her ability as a gifted cellist. She thinks that if she decides to fight for her life she might be able to make it into Julliard. While she is in her coma looking over her life, she is deciding whether she should fight for her life or not and what her life would be like if she lives. With out her family here she is finding it difficult to decide what to do even though she still has people here that want her to be okay and make it through this horrible tragedy. What will Mia decide to do when faced with her biggest decision yet?

I really enjoyed reading this book and I thought it was written very well. The story was also very captivating and I didn't want to put the book down. The only bad thing I have to say about the book is that it was confusing at times because it happens all in one day, but it went back and fourth from the past to the present. The book was a little upsetting given what happened to the main character Mia. I would recommend this book to someone because I think a lot of people would enjoy this read but I would like to let them know that you have to pay close attention to whether or not the part they are reading is the past or present.

---*Marisa*