

Accelerated English III
Summer Reading Assignments 2017
New Albany High School

Texts: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

PDF: download each book in a PDF viewer or iBooks

<http://classroom.rfisd.net/users/0192/A%20Separate%20Peace%20by%20John%20Knowles-Full%20Text.pdf>

*Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will result in a grade of “0”. Be sure to cite all quotations and borrowed ideas. While collaborating with others in the class to discuss the books is acceptable, you should complete all assignments independently. If you are not able to complete these assignments on your own, you may not be prepared for the level of work required in this class.

*All assignments will be submitted through Canvas on Monday, August 7th.

Assignments for *A Separate Peace*

I. Analysis

Directions: Choose 1 of the following questions; write a 2-3 page typed (double-spaced) essay analyzing the statement. Be sure to incorporate quotations from the novel to support your ideas (use proper MLA). Below is an example of how to properly incorporate quotations from the book into sentences. Quotes can never stand alone as a sentence. Also, remember to include the page number. Use 1” margins and 12-point Times New Roman.

Sample Analysis Paragraph:

The two main characters, Gene and Phineas, are known throughout Devon as being best friends. Everyone thinks them to be inseparable and the perfect match for each other; however, Gene distrusts Finny with “that level of feeling, deeper than thought, which contains the truth” (48). Gene is jealous of Finny because he is more popular and more athletic than he; as a result, he believes Finny “deliberately set[s] out to wreck [his] studies,” and an unusual anger arouses within him (53).

Incorporating Quotes into Sentences:

Ex: Deluding himself, Gene believes, “Finny [has] deliberately set out to wreck his studies” (53).

Ex: Hypnotized by Finny’s compelling personality, Gene [takes] off his clothes and . . . climb[s] the pegs” to the top of the tree (16).

Essay Topics: Choose 1

1. The narrator of *A Separate Peace*, Gene Forrester, looks back as an adult on his experiences as a student. Sometimes he seems to speak as the student; at other times he relates or comments on events as an adult. Analyze Gene as the protagonist as he examines, retrospectively, his own lesson in maturity and responsibility.
2. According to Christopher Forbes, “Gene Forrester is a character whose worst enemy is himself. Although he is a capable athlete and an excellent student, Forrester is unable to prevent the dark side of his inner self from perverting and distorting his enjoyment of the world and the people around him.” Do you agree or disagree?

Why?

3. Christopher Forbes suggests, "Finny may symbolize the kind of person Forrester wishes he could be; Finny is an almost complete opposite of Forrester, a natural athlete and a complete individualist, interested in immediate and innocuous personal pleasures. Against the confining background of the Devon School strictures, Finny constructs his own world out of his imagination." Compare and contrast Gene and Finny.

4. William Shakespeare said, "Never waste jealousy on a real man: it is the imaginary man that supplants us all in the long run." Analyze how this statement relates to the novel.