



TCHS Sophomore 2009 Summer Reading Assignment For Pre-AP Eng II, Humanities Eng II, and LEAP English II

Understand the big question.

- ❖ Growing up almost always requires us to change. How do the events in our lives make us who we are?

Get the book.

- ❖ Your summer novel for English II this year will be *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. A copy of the novel can be obtained from a variety of major booksellers (including Half Price Books). You must obtain your own copy so that you can make critical notes in the novel. If you are not able to purchase a copy of the novel, please see Mrs. Schwertner or Ms. Subzali prior to the end of the school year.
- ❖ The goal of the assignment is to help you analyze the literature in a critical fashion and, in turn, write an analytical essay over it.
- ❖ Following are some questions designed to whet your appetite about our novel, *A Separate Peace*. *A Separate Peace* is on the approved LISD reading list for tenth grade; it has also appeared on the AP reading list.
 - Does competition bring out the best or worst in people?
 - Are you eager to leave your teenage years behind you?
 - What does it mean to be “at peace” with yourself?
 - Can you trust your best friend? Can you trust yourself?

Read the text and take notes or annotate.

- ❖ You are expected to take copious [abundant] notes inside the pages of the novel and annotate [mark up] the text as you read. Make note of things that jump out at you or seem important.
- ❖ Your notes should focus on the changes that document the characters’ growing up, coming of age, or change.
- ❖ Take particularly careful notes on the following:
 - The differences between the winter and summer sessions at Devon School,
 - The differences between the boys’ idealized visions of war and the realities of war,
 - The changes to the tree as the novel progresses, and
 - The development of Gene’s identity throughout the novel.

We will write an essay in class in the first few weeks of the semester.

- ❖ You may use whatever resources you may locate to help you better understand the text you have chosen. You should seek out others who are also reading book so you have someone to discuss the work with.
- ❖ The in-class essay will be timed, and it will serve as our first academic writing assignment.
- ❖ Your annotated novel may be used on the in-class essay.
- ❖ The essay will ask you to discuss the changes that occur in the characters, particularly the protagonist, throughout the novel. Refer to the section above—“**Read the text and take notes or annotate.**”—for guidance.

Please have your novel finished by the second day of class.

- ❖ A copy of this assignment can be found at <http://tchs.lisd.net>.

Contact the tenth grade PAP teachers if you need more information.

- ❖ Mrs. Schwertner: schwertnerb@lisd.net (Humanities)
- ❖ Ms. Subzali: subzaliz@lisd.net (LEAP, Pre-AP)