

English 3
American Literature
Junior Summer Reading
A Separate Peace by John Knowles

A Separate Peace is a classic American novel which chronicles the intriguing friendship of two teenage boys on the brink of manhood at a boarding school in New England. With the presence of World War II tempting their future and finally invading their present, these young men experience the loss of innocence.

Summer Study Guide (Point Value: 50)

Please complete the following elements of fiction and personal responses on a separate sheet of paper. (Please type your answers.) You will enjoy a richer understanding of the novel and you will also be prepared for your summer reading assessment in the fall. Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Mrs. Gibbons

I. Elements of Fiction

- A. Characters: Please identify the following characters by discussing their physical attributes and their individual personalities. Some characters will be discussed more fully than others.
Mr. Carhart, Quackenbush, Mr. Ludsbury, Brinker Hadley, Mr. Prud'homme, Mr. Patch-Withers, Chet Douglass, Bobby Zane, Phineas, Gene, Elwin Leper Lepellier, Brownie Perkins, Phil Latham, Dr. Stanpole
- B. Point of View
- C. Setting : Time and Place
- D. Plot: In your own words, **briefly** discuss the plot of the novel. It should not exceed two paragraphs.
- E. Theme: Discuss one or two underlying meanings presented by Knowles.

II. Personal Responses – Please use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

Personal Response #1: Which character do you most identify with and why? (Please include three examples from the novel to support your response.)

Personal Response #2: Do you believe the novel would still succeed without the presence of the war? Please support your answer either way you respond.

Personal Response #3: Why did John Knowles title his novel, *A Separate Peace*?