

English III Juniors: English 1301-1302 Dual-Credit

Summer Reading Assignment

2018

Welcome to dual-credit English! Attached you will find the assignment for the summer reading novel.

Your assignment is to:

- 1) Read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles.
- 2) Complete the character analysis infographic project (instructions are on the next page).
- 3) Complete the attached questions. Your answers can be typed or handwritten on a separate sheet of paper. Do not squeeze your answers in the margins beside the questions. If you would like a digital version of the assignment, email me.
- 4) Review the book to refresh your memory (if needed) close to the start of school in preparation for an essay assignment to be completed at the beginning of the year.

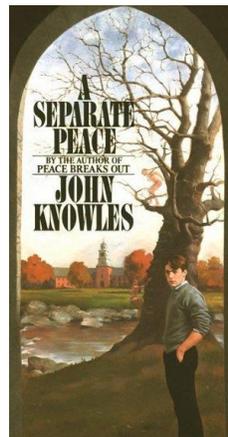
All parts of the assignment will be due by Friday, August 17th and will count as major grades for the first six weeks. You may email me your completed assignment if you would like to turn it in before school starts.

Anyone enrolling at PHS after the year has ended will need to complete these assignments by Wednesday, September 5th.

Concerning supplies for class, you need materials for notes (your choice) and a flash drive for saving work (optional). Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the assignments or the expectations of the college English courses.

Carrie McComas

cmccomas@palestineschools.org



Character Analysis Infographic Project

Assignment: Create either a digital or tangible infographic showing your analysis of one of the main characters from *A Separate Peace*. Main characters from which to choose are Phineas, Gene, Brinker, or Leper.

I recommend looking at sample infographics in order to make sure you have an understanding of what your goal is. Infographics give viewers information by using more than just words. Special attention is given to design elements such as color, font, and the use of images. This website <http://www.dailyinfographic.com/> has several you can view.

---DIGITAL: If you would like to create a digital infographic, the following sites allow you to do that. You are not limited to using these; they are just suggestions to help get you started if needed. From my research, these sites appear to let you create for free. PowerPoint and Google Slides will also work (use one slide, not multiple). Whatever tool you use, just make sure I have access to it in some way in order to grade your work. I'll need a printout, a link, an email, something.

- 1) <http://piktochart.com/>
- 2) <https://venngage.com/>
- 3) <https://www.canva.com/create/infographics/>

---TANGIBLE: Feel free to create a tangible infographic that you can bring in to class. These can be on poster board or regular paper but no smaller than 8.5 x 11 (standard printer paper size). You can use color, mixed media (paint, magazine cuttings, printed images/letters), etc.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS: The following MUST be included on your infographic (in no particular order)

- Character's name
- 2 Strengths of the character (positive character traits)
- 2 Weaknesses of the character (negative character traits)
- A significant quotation from the character (something that was said by or about your chosen character; identify the speaker if it is not said by your character)
- Quick facts – 3 facts sharing who your character is on the surface (the strengths and weaknesses ask you to delve a little deeper into who your character is).
- Conflicts – What conflicts does your chosen character face? These can be expressed simply in either a question that your character struggles to answer or a statement that explains the problem your character faces. You do not need to provide details.
Sentence Stem ideas: Should I... Will he... Gene can't stand it when.... Finny is angry that...

Be creative! If you have any questions, please ask! cmccomas@palestineschools.org

Grading will be done on accuracy of information given in the character analysis as well as the effort put forward in creating this piece and the design elements utilized (color, font, etc.). You need not be a great artist or technology genius to complete this project successfully.

Questions

Answer the following questions in a paragraph or two. Type your responses or use a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to write neatly.

- 1) Considering Gene's descriptions of the events in the novel, his descriptions of Finny, and his descriptions of their relationship, argue whether or not Finny is a good friend to Gene, or would Gene be better off without Finny in his life? What statement is Knowles making about friendship? Were they ever really friends?
- 2) Competition and rivalry play a large role in the novel. Considering the relationship between Gene and Finny, discuss whether or not competition between these two boys is a healthy or unhealthy thing. What are the dangers of competition/rivalry in general?
- 3) Who is the weaker character between Gene and Finny? What characteristics does it take to survive in the modern world, and which of the two boys would be more likely to fit in with our world today?
- 4) At the end of *A Separate Peace*, Gene says, "...my war ended before I even put on a uniform; I was on active duty all my time at school; I killed my enemy there" (Knowles 204). There are many different possible interpretations as to exactly what enemy Gene kills. What enemy do you think Gene kills while attending Devon?
- 5) Throughout the novel, Finny seems to force himself to remain in the innocent moment, denying both his accident and the war until Brinker and the trial force him to come face to face with his injury and Gene's role in it. Yet, it is this knowledge that ultimately destroys him. What comment is John Knowles making about people like Finny in the novel? Is it possible to stay youthful and free or is that simply irresponsible? Was it Finny's naiveté that destroyed him or Gene's jealousy? Why can't we remain forever young? Is it dangerous?