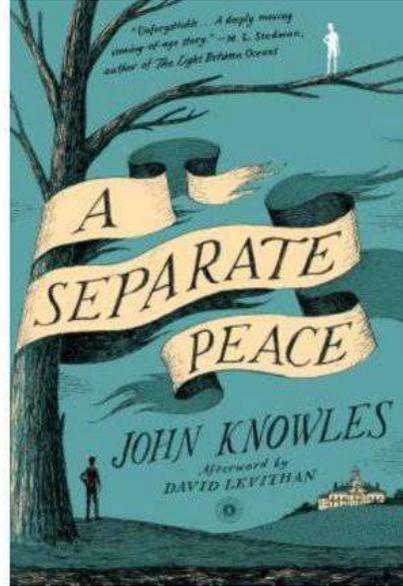


Slidell High School – Summer Reading

English II (Honors)

2020-2021



Dear Parents and Students,

Reading comprehension skills are essential to a student's academic growth. These skills can benefit a person for a lifetime. In an effort to nurture both the habits of good reading and the love of reading, as well as develop strong reading skills, the following reading assignment has been assigned to all English II Honors level students. Every English II Honors student must read and annotate the story, *A Separate Peace* over the summer.

Reading and annotations must be completed no later than Friday, August 21, 2020. So, get started now! It is strongly suggested that a personal copy of this novel be obtained and annotated. However, one may be checked out from the library or obtained on my school webpage via PDF and annotations can be done on post-it notes or as split-page notes. <https://www.bydewey.com/Peace.pdf>

Book Synopsis:

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to World War II. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*. Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

Assignment: Annotate this novel using the attached annotation guidelines.

English II (Honors) Summer Reading

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Coming-of-Age Fiction

Task: The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

***Bring all your annotated texts to class the first day to be sure you're on the right track. Approach the work with an open mind. Let them inspire you and stretch your imagination.

Annotation Guidelines:

Annotation is a key component of close reading. Since we will annotate texts all year, you need to develop a system that works for you (within the following guidelines). Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. The techniques are almost limitless. Use any combination of the following:

- **Make brief comments in the margins.** Use any white space available - inside cover, random blank pages
- **Make brief comments between or within lines of the text.** Do not be afraid to mark within the text itself. In fact, you must.
- **Circle or put boxes, triangles, or clouds around words or phrases.**
- **Use abbreviations or symbols** - brackets, stars, exclamation points, question marks, numbers, etc.
- **Connect words, phrases, ideas, circles, boxes, etc. with lines or arrows.**
- ***Underline** – CAUTION: Use this method sparingly. Underline only a few words. Always combine with another method such as comment. Never underline an entire passage. Doing so takes too much time and loses effectiveness. If you wish to mark an entire paragraph or passage, draw a line down the margin or use brackets.
- ***Highlight** – See underline. You cannot write with a highlighter anyway.
- **Create your own code.**
- **Use post-it notes only if you have exhausted all available space (unlikely).**

What should you annotate?

Again, the possibilities are limitless. Keep in mind the reasons we annotate. Your annotations must include comments. I want to see evidence of thinking.

Have a conversation with the text. Talk to it.

Ask questions (essential to active reading).

Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?

Comment on something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates, etc.

Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful. *Express agreement or disagreement.*

Summarize key events. Make predictions.

Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.

Note if you experience an epiphany.

Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.

Note how the author uses language: Note the significance if you can. Note effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax) point of view / effect, reliability of narrator, repetition of words, phrases, actions, events – patterns - motifs or cluster ideas narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events, tone / mood, irony***, imagery, contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts/themes, allusions, setting / historical period, any other figure of speech or literary device, symbols, etc.



How-to-Annotate Bookmark

Before Reading:

- *Examine the front and back covers*
- *Read the title & any subtitles*
- *Examine illustrations*
- *Examine the print (bold, italic)*
- *Examine the way the text is set up (i.e. Book, Short Story, Dialogue, Diary, Article, Etc.)*

During Reading:

- *Mark in the text: Characters (who), Setting (when/where),*
- *Vocabulary (squiggly line)*
- *Important ideas (straight line)*
- *Write in the margins:
Summarize / Make Predictions
Formulate opinions / Make
Connections / Ask Questions /
Analyze Author's Craft /
Reflect – React – Comment on
Patterns*

After Reading:

- *Re-read annotations*
- *Re-read introduction and conclusion*
- *Examine Patterns and Repetitions / Examine the title*
- *Draw Conclusions – Make Connections*

Annotation Instructions and Rubric

Print this page and cut out the attached bookmark. Use it to help you read for important information.

Obviously, annotation is as personal as reading, and there are MANY ways to annotate a book. This system is a suggestion. For example, some people prefer to use colors to differentiate elements, and some prefer to use "Post Its."

93 – 100 Points

There should be markings and written commentary throughout the book including:

- Recognition of plot points
- Commentary on character development
- Commentary on theme development
- Notation of motifs
- Notation of literary devices

There will be something significant in every chapter.

85 – 92 Points

There should be markings and commentary throughout most of the book including:

- Recognition of plot points
- Commentary on character development
- Commentary on theme development
- Notation of literary devices

There will be something noted in nearly every chapter.

75 – 84 Points

There should be markings and commentary throughout the book though some sections may be marked less than others. Highlights and commentary should still show a basic understanding of the plot and characters.

0 – 74 Points

Annotation reflects that reading was incomplete or there was a lack of understanding. Entire sections may have been skipped or random/insignificant material has been highlighted.