A SEPARATE PEACE

by
John Knowles

Student Packet
Written by
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Contains masters for:

1 Prereading Activity
1 Dual-Entry Journal
6 Literary Analysis Activities
1 Critical Thinking Activity
6 Vocabulary Activities
1 Study Guide (two pages)
3 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)
2 Unit Exams (two levels)

PLUS Detailed Answer Key

Note
The text used to prepare this guide was the Bantam softcover, ©1959 by John Knowles. The page references may differ in other editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.
Anticipation Guide

For each of the statements, choose a response from the scale below. Share your answers by discussing them with a partner. After you have finished reading and studying *A Separate Peace*, you might want to take this quiz again and compare your new answers with your original ones.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>-5</th>
<th>-3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree Strongly</td>
<td>Disagree Somewhat</td>
<td>No Opinion</td>
<td>Agree Somewhat</td>
<td>Agree Strongly</td>
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1. True friends never lie to one another.
2. Jealousy is common between good friends.
3. Almost everyone must fight some kind of battle.
4. It's best to confess your mistakes right away.
5. Nagging guilt can affect how a person lives his or her life.
6. There are some things a friend might do to me that I could never forgive.
7. True friendship is forever: you should always forgive a friend, no matter what he or she has done.
8. It is important to me to conform to school rules.
9. It is important to me to express my individuality.
10. Part of friendship consists of accepting a friend's shortcomings.
Dual-Entry Journal

As you read the novel, write down questions you have after reading each chapter. As your questions are answered, write the answers in the right-hand column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Questions I Have</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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Personification

Personification is a technique used to give inanimate objects some characteristics of humans or animals.

Example (page 18): “The chocolate brown wicker furniture shot out menacing twigs…”

The furniture, of course, was totally inanimate, but the image of it shooting out twigs in a menacing way is one with which we can identify, and is more colorful and interesting than simply saying that the furniture had a lot of sharp twigs sticking out of it.

Skim the pages indicated below to find other examples of personification, and write them down. Then write your own personification phrases for the objects listed at the bottom of the page.

page 2

page 4

page 6

page 23

page 27

a rock

a house

a snowstorm
Rules To Live By ...

Finny has little use for most of the school’s rules, but he does follow rules of his own. In the diagram below, write a list of Finny’s rules (the ones implied as well as stated) and the special rules you have made for your own life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finny’s Rules</th>
<th>My Rules</th>
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</table>
Epiphany

Epiphany is a sudden moment of self-awareness experienced by a character. On each page listed below, find an example of epiphany. Summarize each experience in your own words.

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page 44:

---

page 45:

---

page 51:

---

page 54:

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page 62:
Setting and Tone

Changes in setting often affect the tone of the story and the feelings the story elicits from the reader. Use the diagram below to compare Devon in the winter to Devon in the summer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Devon in Summer</th>
<th>Devon in Winter</th>
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</table>

How has the tone of the story changed?

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
In this novel, the narrator's "voice" often shifts between that of the adult narrator and that of the teen he once was. For example, "I wouldn't have been on that damn limb except for him" (page 25) is an expression of young Gene's anger, whereas "Phineas always had a steady and formidable flow of usable energy" (page 31) is an observation by the adult Gene.

Skim Chapters 8 and 9 and record below the examples you find of Gene's "teen" narrative voice and his "adult" narrative voice.

**Adult Narrative Voice:**

**Teen Narrative Voice:**
Gene, the narrator, is usually considered the central character of *A Separate Peace*. The way he relates to other characters in the novel, and the way they in turn relate to him, help the reader to better understand Gene as well as the others. Complete the sociogram for Gene by writing a phrase or two describing how he acts and feels toward each character under the arrows pointing away from Gene. Next to the arrows pointing back to Gene, write several phrases telling how the characters act and feel toward Gene.
Conflict

Conflict is central to all literature. Without conflict, there could be no story. Conflict may be a struggle between people, between the human and the natural world, between characters and society, or a struggle within a character. All of these types of conflict occur to some degree in A Separate Peace. Give at least one example of each type below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character vs. Self</th>
<th>Character(s) vs. Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Character(s) vs. Society</td>
<td>Character(s) vs. Character(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name _______________________

Activity #10: Vocabulary
Chapters 1 & 2

Context Clues

Find each word in the right-hand column on the page indicated. Read the sentence in which it is used, and several of the sentences before and after it. Then, without looking in a dictionary, match each word with the definition that makes the most sense. Check your answers by looking the words up.

1. conspicuous
   A. capacious (2)
   B. expansive (10)
   C. consternation (7)
   D. prodigious (7)
   E. inveigle (7)

2. silly; empty
   F. compelling (21)
   G. commendable (16)
   H. inane (19)
   I. salient (4)
   J. cupola (3)

3. rounded dome above a roof
4. enormous
5. broad, extensive
6. convincing
7. entice
8. roomy
9. worthy of praise
10. fear; concern
Synonym Trains

Use a thesaurus or dictionary to complete the synonym trains. The first one is done for you.

1. resonance — echo — reverberation — repercussion

2. transitional

3. venerable

4. inured

5. insidious

6. fey

7. spectral

8. effulgence

9. undulation

10. solace

11. indiscriminately

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Synonyms

Find each vocabulary word listed below on the page indicated. Rewrite the sentence containing the word, substituting a synonym or synonym phrase for the vocabulary word.

1. irresolutely 59  
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. grandee 54  
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. decalogue 58  
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. visionary 56  
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. erratic 59  
   __________________________________________________________________________

6. exhorted 65  
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. nonentity 69  
   __________________________________________________________________________

8. apse 64  
   __________________________________________________________________________

9. sinecure 69  
   __________________________________________________________________________

10. stupefaction 76  
    __________________________________________________________________________
Etymology

A word’s **etymology** is its history. Often, just by looking at a word’s etymology, you can get an idea of what it means. Some word origins are too vague to tell you very much. The etymologies for ten vocabulary words are listed below. Next to each one, write the vocabulary word that matches and your own brief definition. Check your answers with a dictionary.

**Words:** galvanized, dexterity, fratricide, contretemps, tributaries, sententiousness, opulent, gullible, reticent, telescope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Etymologies:</th>
<th>Word:</th>
<th>Definition:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Latin: <em>opulentis</em>: power, wealth</td>
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<td>2. Latin: <em>frater</em>: brother + <em>caedere</em>: to kill</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. French: <em>contre</em>: against + <em>temps</em>: the fashion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Greek: <em>tele</em>: far + <em>skopeein</em>: to look at</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Galvanism</strong>: Electricity produced by chemical action, named after Italian Luigi Galvani.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Latin: <em>sententia</em>: an opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Latin: <em>dexter</em>: right</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Latin: <em>tribuere</em>: to allot</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Latin: <em>re</em>: again + <em>tacere</em>: to be silent</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Middle English: <em>goll</em>: an unfledged bird</td>
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</table>
The vocabulary words in the sentences below are underlined. Read each question carefully. Write “yes” or “no” in the box at the beginning of the sentence. If you write “yes,” do nothing more. If you write “no,” explain your reason.

1. Would a stuffy, well-organized person be likely to give in to vagaries?

2. Might a horse run a race of seven furloughs?

3. Could a village be deciphered by a violent tornado?

4. Would it be wise to have a liaison with a psychotic killer?

5. If you failed English, would your teacher give you accolades?

6. Are four-year-olds often querulous?

7. Does your day usually culminate with breakfast?

8. Could a flock of geese flying north create a cacophony?

9. Does a doctor take a course in choreography?
Choose a word from the list below to correctly complete each sentence. Write the words on the blank lines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>incarnate</th>
<th>impervious</th>
<th>scholasticism</th>
<th>gyrations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>austere</td>
<td>parody</td>
<td>regimentation</td>
<td>implicate</td>
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<tr>
<td>cohorts</td>
<td>superficial</td>
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1. The politician was surrounded by his loyal __________________________.

2. Deception and distortion were ____________________________ in his speech.

3. In spite of the ____________________________ conditions in his state, he assured everyone that it was not his fault.

4. He was quick to ____________________________ the other political party for all the unfortunate things that had happened during his term.

5. He claimed he had a plan to improve ____________________________ in the local schools.

6. He advised the school board that increasing ____________________________ would help keep students in line.

7. He also called for a halt to rock videos on television, claiming that the dancers eroded moral character with their ____________________________.

8. He was ____________________________ to the heckler's chants that his own daughter is starring in a rock video.

9. Many of those who heard him speak liked him, but many others found him to be a rather ____________________________ person.

10. That evening, a ____________________________ of his speech was presented by a television comedian.
Study Guide

1. How does the narrator feel about being back at Devon? Why do you suppose he has returned there?

2. How does the tree's appearance surprise the narrator?

3. How did Gene feel about jumping from the tree?

4. How do the teachers feel about Finny? How do they treat him?

5. Do you see any change in Gene's feelings about Finny during the episode when Finny wears the school tie as a belt?

6. What rules does Finny keep? Does he obey school rules?

7. What game did Finny develop? Did Gene like the game?

8. What school record does Finny break? Why does he want Gene to keep quiet about this achievement?

9. Where do Gene and Finny go to spend the night?

10. What suspicions does Gene develop about Finny after he fails his trigonometry test? Do you think his suspicions are valid?

11. Why does Finny fall from the tree?

12. How bad is Finny's injury? How does Gene feel about it?

13. How does Finny react to Gene's confession?

14. Compare the mood of summer session at Devon with that of the winter term.

15. Why does Gene want to be Assistant Crew Manager?

16. What one word does Quackenbush utter that causes Gene to fight him?

17. Why does Finny telephone Gene?

18. Of what does Brinker jokingly accuse Gene?
19. How do the other students treat Leper? Why is his nickname appropriate?

20. What do Brinker and Gene decide to do?

21. Why does Gene back out of the plan he and Brinker made?

22. What nickname does Brinker earn?

23. What is Finny's explanation about the "war"?

24. Why does Leper enlist? How do the other boys react?

25. What activity does Finny organize to relieve the boredom of winter?

26. At the end of the event in question 25, what does Gene receive?

27. How has Leper changed?

28. Why does Gene knock Leper over?

29. Why do Brinker and his friends take Finny and Gene to the First Building?

30. How and why does Finny's second accident occur?

31. What does Gene do the night of the second accident? To what realization has Finny come?

32. What happens the next day, when Gene brings Finny some clothes? later that day?

33. What has Gene learned about the following?
   - hatred—
   - jealousy—
   - friendship—
   - war—
Choose the BEST answer for each question.

1. The narrator of *A Separate Peace* is
   A. John
   B. Gene
   C. Phineas
   D. Lepellier

2. ______ is the narrator's roommate, and considered one of the school's best athletes.
   A. Brinker
   B. Quackenbush
   C. Leper
   D. Finny

3. As the novel progresses, the boys' lives become more entangled with
   A. the Korean War
   B. the Vietnam War
   C. World War II
   D. World War I

4. Finny fell out of the tree because Gene
   A. jounced the limb
   B. grabbed him to get his balance
   C. pushed him
   D. shouted at him and startled him

5. Which of the following would Finny be unlikely to do?
   A. skip dinner
   B. invent a new game
   C. stay up all night studying
   D. explain away his misbehavior with a smile

6. As an emblem celebrating the bombing of Central Europe, Finny wears
   A. a camouflage jacket
   B. a pink shirt
   C. a red-white-and-blue sweater
   D. a red-white-and-blue tie

7. Brinker jokingly accuses Gene of the crime of
   A. attempted murder
   B. suicide
   C. theft
   D. assault

8. After failing his trigonometry test, Gene concluded that Finny
   A. wanted to ruin his grades
   B. was not who he appeared to be
   C. was envious of his scholarly talents
   D. all of these

9. Gene did all of the following except
   A. invented blitzball
   B. confessed to Finny
   C. had a fight with Quackenbush
   D. put on Finny's clothes

10. The setting of *A Separate Peace* is
    A. New Hampshire
    B. Vermont
    C. Devon, West Virginia
    D. Boston
Connect each cause with its effect by writing the correct letters in the left-hand column.

1. The adult Gene still felt guilty and confused about an incident in the summer of 1942...
   - A. ...so Gene failed his trigonometry test.
   - B. ...so Gene jounced the tree limb and Finny fell.
   - C. ...so he began to hate Finny.
   - D. ...so he returned to Devon School to sort out his feelings.
   - E. ...so Gene signed up for Assistant Crew Manager.

2. Finny convinced Gene to bicycle to the beach and spend the night...
   - C. ...so he began to hate Finny.

3. Gene became convinced Finny was trying to sabotage his studies...
   - D. ...so he returned to Devon School to sort out his feelings.

4. Gene was angry when he realized Finny really was "flawless"...

5. Finny's injury prevented him from playing sports...

Short Essay: Answer each question briefly but concisely.

6. Describe the setting of the novel.

7. What is special about the Summer Session, 1942? How does it differ from the session that begins in the fall?

8. After the accident, how does Gene's life change?

9. What is Finny's reaction to Gene's confession?

10. Analysis: How guilty is Gene? What do you think should happen to him? Justify your response.
Name__________________________

Number a separate sheet of paper from 1 to 25. Fill in the blanks in the Plot Map below by writing the correct word or words next to the corresponding numbers on your paper.

**Chapters 8-13**

When he first sees Gene, Finny is surprised to see how he is dressed, but Gene explains that they have been shoveling 1 off the 2 to help with the war effort. Finny is also distressed to find that Devon no longer has any 3 to make his bed. 4 continues the joke about Gene trying to get rid of Finny.

Gene’s dream of 5 vanishes as he realizes that Finny needs him. Brinker receives the nickname 6 __ 7. Finny coerces Gene into training for the 8. According to Finny, the 9 does not exist. The enlistment of 10 is a surprise to everyone, but they are soon involved in half-joking tales of his heroics. Finny organizes the 11, an event where even 12 dances. The jovial atmosphere is broken when 13 receives a telegram from 14, who has “escaped” from the Army and needs help. When 15 visits him in Vermont, 16 acts hostile and half-crazy and accuses 17 of knocking Finny out of the tree. Back at Devon, 18 organizes a “mock trial” to get to the bottom of what really happened the night of Finny’s fall. 19 is brought in to testify against Gene, and Finny is so angry that he runs from the room and 20, breaking his leg again. In shock, 21 crawls to the window of the room where Finny is taken, but his efforts to apologize are greeted with anger from 22, who has finally admitted that Gene really did cause his fall from the tree. The following morning, however, Finny 23 Gene. Later that day when Dr. Stanpole sets Finny’s leg, 24 seeps into Finny’s bloodstream and Finny 25.
Matching: Match the characters below to their descriptions.

A. Finny  
B. Gene  
C. Leper  
D. Brinker

1. wrapped up in the natural world  
2. a graceful, natural-born athlete  
3. feels trapped by a friend's disregard for rules  
4. behaves impetuously and makes his own rules  
5. returns to Devon as an adult  
6. cannot adjust to the Army  
7. busy with school politics  
8. all things, except studies, come easily to him  
9. enlists after seeing a movie about the ski troops  
10. in the Butt Room, he jokes with Gene about his plot to kill Finny  
11. can easily talk his way out of any situation  
12. realizes that it is futile to use another person as a measurement of oneself  
13. expresses feelings openly; responds warmly and spontaneously to others

Multiple Choice: Choose the BEST answer for each question.

14. Finny refuses to accept the war as a reality and creates illusions concerning it because
   A. he has not been accepted by any branch of the armed services
   B. he is incapable of evil and malice
   C. his accident prevented any possibility of his entering the war
   D. all of these
   E. none of these

15. One theme of the novel is that
   A. no one ever loses at a game
   B. only love and death by violence endure
   C. good always triumphs over evil
   D. wars—of any kind—are the result of something ignorant in the human heart
16. Gene's growth and maturation throughout the book are seen in all of the following quotations except
   A. "Phineas created an atmosphere in which I continued now to live."
   B. "My fury was gone, I felt it gone, dried up at the source, withered and lifeless."
   C. "But by now I no longer needed this vivid false identity."
   D. "Brinker the Lawgiver had turned rebel for the Duration."

**Matching:** Each of the quotations below is characteristic of the personality, attitudes, and feelings of one of the major characters in the novel. Match each with the name of the person WHO SAID IT.

A. Finny  
B. Gene  
C. Leper  
D. Brinker

___ 17. "Nothing endures, not a tree, not love, not even death by violence."
___ 18. "I'll bet you knew all the time he wouldn't be back. That's why you picked him for a roommate—so you could have this big room all to yourself."
___ 19. "You always were a lord of the manor, weren't you? A swell guy, except when the chips were down. You always were a savage underneath."
___ 20. "I didn't know you needed to study...I didn't think you ever did. I thought it just came to you."
___ 21. "I did not cry then or ever about Finny. I did not cry even when I stood watching him being lowered into the family's straight-laced burial ground outside of Boston."
___ 22. "They moved like an engine...that has two pistons."

Each of the quotations below refers to another character. Match each with the name of the person ABOUT WHOM it was said. (Watch the underlined words for clues.)

___ 23. "What was I doing up here anyway? Why did I let him talk me into stupid things like this?"
___ 24. "...you can't come by yourself, and at this teenage period in life the proper person is your best pal, which is what you are."
___ 25. "He looked the standard preparatory school article in his gray gabardine suit with square, hand-sewn looking jacket pockets, a conservative necktie, and dark brown shoes. He was the hub of the class."
Multiple Choice: Choose the BEST answer for each question.

26. Why did Finny not want his swimming feat made public?
   A. He just wanted to see if he could break the school record.
   B. He finds it amusing that A. Hopkins Parker will think he still holds the record.
   C. He did not want to give Gene further cause for jealousy.
   D. A and B
   E. B and C

27. Why did Gene Forrester return to Devon fifteen years after graduating?
   A. to re-visit the places where he achieved self-knowledge
   B. to have tea with the headmaster
   C. for the 15th reunion of his class
   D. because he had been hired as an instructor there

28. At Leper’s house, Gene knocked Leper over in his chair because
   A. he was angry with Leper for deserting the Army
   B. Leper accused him of crippling Finny
   C. Leper took a swing at him
   D. Leper spilled soup on him

29. Brinker’s motive in holding the mock trial was
   A. to win back the leadership he felt Finny had taken from him
   B. because he wanted to clear up the details about the accident
   C. because he had always hated Gene
   D. because he had always hated Finny
   E. B and C

30. Brinker changed from being a student leader to being a rebel because of
   A. a distaste for authority
   B. his desire for new experiences
   C. his desire to please his father
   D. general apathy about school activities compared to the excitement of the war

31. Leper decided to enlist because
   A. he was the oldest member of the class
   B. he was entranced by the ski troop movie
   C. he was lacking the credits needed to graduate
   D. he wanted to gain Gene’s respect
32. Gene gave up his plans to enlist with Brinker because
   A. Finny persuaded him there was no war
   B. he decided to let himself be drafted
   C. he got scared at the last minute
   D. he realized Finny needed him
   E. C and D

33. Examples of Gene's desire to identify with Finny include all of the following except
   A. wearing his clothes
   B. beating up Quackenbush for calling him "maimed"
   C. avoiding active participation in sports
   D. chumming around with Leper

34. At the beginning of the fall term, why did Finny call Gene long distance?
   A. to ask about Leper
   B. to make sure Gene had not let the school give him another roommate
   C. to tell Gene he had left a suitcase in Boston
   D. to make plans to meet him in Boston

35. Gene misunderstood Finny's motives for the trip to the beach and for the nightly meetings of the Super Suicide Society. He believed Finny's motive to be
   A. to fool the headmaster
   B. to escape the rigid discipline of the summer session
   C. to scare other members of the group
   D. to keep Gene too busy to study

36. On the night the boys spent at the beach, Gene found he could not express his feelings of friendship to Finny because
   A. his jealousy of Finny prevented it
   B. he was too tired to talk about it
   C. he was ashamed he let Finny talk him into breaking so many rules
   D. he was too absorbed in studying for his trigonometry test

37. Why did Gene want to be head of the class?
   A. He had a genuine love of learning.
   B. He wanted his parents to be proud of him.
   C. to be "even" with Finny when they graduated
   D. because he hated Chet Douglas
38. Mr. Patch-Withers, to whom Finny explained his reasons for wearing the school tie as a belt, represented the following to the boys:
   A. an admirable man
   B. a nice old man who was easily manipulated
   C. a brilliant educator
   D. a real pal

39. The novel is written in
   A. third person
   B. second person
   C. first person
   D. third person plural

40. The novel begins when Gene is a 33-year-old adult. The remainder of the novel takes the form of
   A. flashback
   B. premonition
   C. futurism
   D. present time

41. The adult Gene’s desire to see the tree and the stairs is primarily an example of
   A. narration
   B. contrast
   C. foreshadowing
   D. metaphor

42. Knowles had Leper looking for a beaver dam while the others worked on the railroad tracks to show
   A. that Leper was eccentric and absent-minded
   B. that Leper was lazy
   C. that Leper enjoyed nature and skiing
   D. A and C

43. After Gene and Brinker discussed enlisting in the Army, Gene walked back toward his room and saw that the light was on. This foreshadows
   A. his reconciling Finny to acceptance that the war is real
   B. his return to peaceful, pleasant days with Finny
   C. Finny’s return to Devon to become a champion swimmer
   D. Gene’s immediate enlistment

Sorting: For each of the following, indicate if it is a symbol of (A) peace or (B) war.

   ___ 44. winter session
   ___ 45. Naguamsett River
   ___ 46. sewing machines
   ___ 47. Phineas
   ___ 48. summer session
   ___ 49. no maids
50. preparation for the Olympics
51. a relaxation of the rules
52. the Winter Carnival
53. shoveling snow off railroad tracks
54. helping to harvest the apple crop
55. a gold star in the window

Multiple Choice: Choose the BEST answer for each question.

56. “It was ugly, saline, fringed with marsh, mud and seaweed,” is a description of
   A. the Devon River
   B. a tributary of the Devon River
   C. the Naguamsett River
   D. a pond on the Far Common

57. Finny wore a pink shirt
   A. because he was artistic
   B. because Gene didn’t like it
   C. to celebrate the bombing of Central Europe
   D. to match his school tie

58. In the novel, Leper symbolizes
   A. the perfect boy
   B. Christ
   C. the evil effects of war
   D. jealousy and enmity

59. The fact that Finny doesn’t believe Gene when he confesses to causing his accident, or that there is really a war going on demonstrates his inability to
   A. recognize the existence of evil
   B. communicate
   C. continue with sports
   D. maintain a true friendship

60. Finny’s “separate peace” was
   A. his idealism and innocence, which isolated him from the world’s evil
   B. his ability to excel in athletics, which prepared him for the war
   C. his refusal to forgive Gene for what he had done to him
   D. his realistic attitude toward life, which allowed him to face problems squarely
61. Devon students' "separate peace" was that
   A. they rarely discussed the war
   B. they were safe from fighting in the war until they were 18
   C. they had connections to get safe military assignments after graduation
   D. the professors understood their problems

62. Gene's "separate peace" was made when
   A. he realized he was locked in a fierce rivalry with Finny
   B. Finny forgave him, and he felt no more hatred or jealousy toward anyone
   C. he went along with Finny's escapades to keep peace
   D. he refused to believe in the war

Vocabulary: Choose the definition from the list on the right which most closely matches the words in the list on the left.

   ___ 63. inveigle  A. a paying job with few duties
   ___ 64. inane          B. conspicuous; prominent
   ___ 65. salient        C. to entice by flattery
   ___ 66. effulgence     D. praise; honor
   ___ 67. venerable      E. worthy of reverence
   ___ 68. exhorted       F. silly; stupid
   ___ 69. sinecure       G. humorous imitation
   ___ 70. fratricide     H. murder of one's brother
   ___ 71. sententious    I. close associates
   ___ 72. accolade      J. strongly urged
   ___ 73. cohorts        K. brilliant splendor
   ___ 74. impervious     L. pompous and moralizing
   ___ 75. parody        M. impenetrable

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Essay Exam

1. Trace the relationship of Gene and Phineas from the summer of 1942 to its end. Give examples of incidents Gene would later remember as "shining moments" in their friendship. Also cite those incidents which brought about change in the characters (one or both) and which resulted in changes in their relationship. (25 points)

2. Contrast Leper and Brinker. Think about their status in the school's "society," their likes and dislikes, their probable futures, and so forth. (15 points)

3. What is meant by the title, A Separate Peace? How does the title apply to the boys at Devon as a group and to Gene in particular? (15 points)

4. Write a character analysis of Phineas OR Gene, illustrating your analysis with examples from the novel. (15 points)

5. Explain each of the following quotations. (6 points each)
   
   A. "I never killed anybody and I never developed an intense level of hatred for the enemy. Because my war ended before I ever put on a uniform. I was on active duty all my time at school; I killed my enemy there."

   B. "...it seemed clear that wars were not made by generations, but that wars were made instead by something ignorant in the human heart."

   C. "Tell me how to show you. It was just some ignorance inside me, some crazy thing inside me, something blind, that's all it was."

   D. "Under the influence not I know of the hardest cider but of his own inner joy at life for the moment as it should be, as it was meant to be in his nature...It was his wildest demonstration of himself, of himself in the kind of world he loved; it was his choreography of peace."

   E. "It was only long after that I recognized sarcasm as the protest of people who are weak."
**Answer Key**

**ACTIVITIES:**

#1: Students’ responses will vary. They should be shared with a partner and/or the entire class.

#2: Students’ questions and answers will vary. As you read the novel, elicit the various questions students have included here, and discuss answers.

#3: page 2: “handsome” and “forbidding” manses; “moody” gusts; “self-pitying” November day; “moaning” trees. page 4: “Republican” and “bankerish” trees; school buildings living in “contentious harmony” with the threat of an impending argument; Devon itself is “scholarly and athletic.” page 6: giant trees “demoted” to pigmies; the tree is “weary and enfeebled”—but remembered as an “irate steeple.” page 23: the gym “meditated.” page 27: the shuttlecock is “fey”; the badminton nets sway “sensually.” Students’ own personifications will vary.

#4: Finny’s rules: “Never say you are five feet nine when you are five feet eight and a half.” “Always say some prayers at night because it might turn out that there is a God.” “You always win at sports.” Students’ own rules will vary, and sharing them should make for a lively discussion.

#5: page 44: Gene has the sudden realization that Finny despises the idea of Gene being head of the class. page 45: Gene is suddenly sure that Finny had deliberately set out to wreck his studies. page 51: Gene realizes his own error: Finny had never been jealous of him at all. Finny, who is of “better quality” than Gene, is incapable of petty jealousy. page 54: Gene, in Finny’s clothes, “becomes” Finny and feels he will never again “stumble through the confusions” of his own character. page 62: Gene realizes that his confession to Finny about causing his accident could hurt him more deeply than the accident itself.

#6: Devon in summer had a dreamy, peaceful quality, with relaxed rules and fewer students and teachers. In the winter session, peace has gone; there are no maids; it is cold and snowy, and the war affects the students more. The tone has changed as the narrator’s guilt and fear seem to gain control of his life, which has become a kind of penance to which he is resigned.

#7: Some examples are: Adult Voice: page 96—“He wasn’t a bit sensitive about being helped, not a bit like an invalid striving to seem independent.” page 115—“What deceived me was my own happiness.” Teen Voice: page 100—“In some way he needed me.” page 127—“I jerked the jug to my mouth and took a huge gulp of cider in relief...”

#8: Finny considers Gene his best friend, and has no ill will toward him, while Gene is bothered by Finny’s disregard for the rules and envious of his ability to talk his way out of trouble. After Finny’s accident, Gene feels sheer guilt when he looks at Finny. Leper doesn’t pay much attention to Gene at first because he is wrapped up in his nature projects, however in his telegram after his “escape” from the Army, Leper calls himself Gene’s best friend. He turns on him, however, finally betraying him as a “witness” at the mock trial. Gene feels
kindly toward Leper and misses him when Brinker takes his room. Later, he is disgusted and disturbed by Leper’s change in personality. Brinker probably doesn’t harbor any ill feelings toward Gene—he just thinks justice should be done. Gene likes Brinker in spite of his “efficiency,” and amazingly they remain friends even after Finny’s death. Quackenbush has little respect for Gene; he insults him and finally pushes him into a fight. Although Gene despises Quackenbush, he feels a bit sorry for him because he is such an outcast.

#9: Conflict within a character: Gene’s changing feelings about Finny and himself; Leper’s inability to adjust to the Army; Brinker’s identity crisis as he becomes a “rebel.” Character vs. nature: jumping from the tree; Gene’s “baptism” in the Naguamsett. Characters vs. society: Leper and Quackenbush are outcasts. Finny resists the reality of the war. Characters vs. characters: Gene’s imagined rivalry with Finny; his real rivalry with Chet Douglas; Gene’s fight with Quackenbush; Leper’s betrayal of Gene; Gene vs. Brinker and his cohorts at the trial.


#11: Sample answers: transitional-shifting-impermanent-changing; venerable-revered-respected-aged; inured-habituated-hardened-toughened; insidious-treacherous-deceitful-evil; fey-bizarre-eccentric-whimsical; spectral-ghostly-insubstantial-illusory; effulgence-brilliance-radiance-splendor; undulation-pulsation-rippling-fluctuation; solace-comfort-consolation-contentment; indiscriminately-unwisely-randomly-injudiciously

#12: Students’ synonyms will vary. Sample answers: 1. unwaveringly, 2. nobleman, 3. list of ten commandments, 4. dreamlike, 5. undependable, 6. urged, 7. (for such an) unimportant (job), 8. recessed area, 9. job with many duties and no pay (opposite of sinecure), 10. incomprehension

#13: 1. opulent (wealthy, powerful); 2. fratricide (the murder of one’s brother); 3. contretemps (embarrassing, awkward event); 4. telescope (instrument for bringing far-away images closer); 5. galvanized (made using the process of galvanization); 6. sententiousness (the quality of being opinionated and pompous); 7. dexterity (skill with the hands); 8. tributaries (small streams flowing from a larger river); 9. reticent (unwilling to talk); 10. gullible (easily fooled)

#14: 1. No, such a person is unlikely to do extravagant or unplanned things. 2. No, a furlough is a leave of absence for a soldier. A horse might run seven furlongs. 3. No, a code can be deciphered, or broken. A village might be decimated. 4. No, it would be best not to be involved with such a person. 5. No, your teacher would not praise you. 6. yes 7. No, your day ends with going to sleep. 8. yes 9. No, doctors don’t need to know how to dance.

#15: 1. cohorts; 2. incarnate; 3. austere; 4. implicate; 5. scholasticism; 6. regimentation; 7. gyrations; 8. impervious; 9. superficial; 10. parody
STUDY GUIDE:

1. He realizes he lived in fear when he was there; it seems like a sort of museum to him.
2. It seems smaller and older than he remembered.
3. He dreaded it every time.
4. The teachers, easily swayed by Finny, seem to find him amusing and refreshing.
5. It irritates Gene that Finny can "get away with anything."
6. He obeys some school rules, but primarily lives by his own.
7. blitzball; no
8. the 100-yard freestyle swim; He thinks it's funny that everyone will still think A. Hopkins Parker holds the record.
9. the beach
10. that Finny wants him to do poorly in his studies
11. Gene jounces the limb.
12. Finny's leg is broken badly. He will never play sports again. Gene is filled with guilt.
13. He refuses to hear any more about it, and thinks Gene is just talking crazily.
14. Summer was peaceful and easy-going; in winter the war moves closer to the boys and there is more regimentation at the school as well.
15. He has decided not to play any sports if Finny is unable to.
16. maimed
17. to make sure he hasn't let the school give him another roommate
18. trying to get rid of Finny so he'll have a room to himself
19. Leper is somewhat of an outcast—as a leper would be.
20. enlist in the Army
21. Finny returns, and Gene realizes Finny needs his help.
22. Yellow Peril
23. that it is all a hoax planned by fat old men
24. He sees a ski troop movie. The others are shocked.
25. Winter Carnival
26. a telegram from Leper, who has deserted the Army
27. He is hostile and acts half-crazy.
28. Leper accuses him of crippling Finny.
29. Brinker has decided to clear up the details of the accident.
30. When Leper tells the "court" he saw Gene move the limb, Finny runs from the room in anger and falls down the marble stairs, breaking his leg again.
31. He goes to the infirmary window and tries to talk to Finny, who is finally facing the truth about the accident and wants nothing to do with Gene.
32. Finny forgives Gene. Later, as Dr. Stanpole is setting Finny's leg, some bone marrow seeps into his bloodstream and he dies.
33. Students' answers to these will vary. They are worthy of discussion. Once forgiven by Finny, Gene finds he has no more hatred or jealousy in his heart. (Some critics see Finny as a Christ figure who "saved" Gene from his sins.) Gene has learned that people aren't perfect, and that friendship means accepting a person's shortcomings. He has decided that war is made of something ignorant in the human heart—by those who have not learned to be as accepting and all-loving as Finny was.

QUizzes:


Level Two, Chapters 1-7: 1. D, 2. A, 3. C, 4. B, 5. E, 6. The setting is a private boys' prep school in New Hampshire. It is suffused with memories, like a museum of the narrator's time there. 7. The rules are more relaxed because of the war; there is an easy-going peaceful mood. In the winter, peace is gone and regimentation returns as the war moves closer to the boys' lives. 8. Gene is living in fear and guilt. He tries not to feel, to be an automaton, and moves through his days in a resigned and joyless way. 9. He refuses to believe it, and tells Gene he's talking crazy. 10. opinion

Levels One and Two: Chapters 8-13:

2. railroad tracks 9. war 16. Leper 22. Finny
7. Peril 14. Leper
Unit Exam: Level One: Objective


Unit Exam: Level Two: Essay

1. Students' answers should include some examples of the good times Gene and Finny shared, such as their trip to the beach and Finny's breaking the swimming record. Also noted should be Gene's envy of Finny and his suspicions that Finny is trying to sabotage him. Finny is, of course, a flawless and loving "true friend," right to the end, when he forgives Gene for causing his fall from the tree. Gene learns the futility of hatred and envy from Finny.

2. Brinker is "the hub of the school" while Leper is the school outcast. Brinker is likely to succeed, while Leper probably will always be on the fringes of society.

3. Gene makes his peace with himself when he leaves jealousy and hatred behind him. The boys at Devon are cut off from the brutal reality of war and so have their own kind of peace.

4. Analyses will vary.

5. Students' explanations should include the speaker and occasion for each quote:
   A. Gene, at the end of the novel
   B. Gene, relating his personal war to WWII
   C. Gene, asking Finny's forgiveness
   D. Gene, regarding Finny at the Winter Carnival
   E. Gene, foreshadowing the lessons he learned