



Dear Rising English II Honors Student,

Welcome to English II Honors! I am thrilled that you are taking the opportunity to challenge yourself by choosing to take honors English this coming school year. I'm even more thrilled to join most of you in our literature endeavors AGAIN for your Sophomore year and to meet those of you who might be new. I look forward to delving into the world of literature, writing, and research with you, and I'm excited to see how your own knowledge and experience will contribute to our classroom. As a member of our classroom community, you are expected to go above and beyond the basic requirements of the course to engage English literature and language on a deeper level.

In preparation for your time in English II Honors, you will be completing a summer reading project (attached). First of all, you'll be reading *A Separate Peace* by American novelist John Knowles. It is a coming of age novel set during WWII at a boarding school in New England. I'm thrilled to share a book with you that I thoroughly enjoyed reading when I was your age. Please be sure to read and follow the instructions carefully. Don't wait until the last minute - give yourself plenty of time so that you can enjoy reading the novel and complete your assignments thoroughly. **MAKE SURE TO DO THE PROJECT IN ORDER.**

By the way, in case you are curious, the main supplies that you will need for class are as follows: one package of page flags (Dollar Tree has a good option), colored pencils, a ruler, one package of blank 3"x5" index cards, a three-ring binder for notes and handouts (at least 1", or a section in a larger binder), loose-leaf college-ruled notebook paper, a composition book (college-ruled; no spirals **USE THE ONE FOR THE PROJECT DON'T BUY TWO**), pencils, pens (not just black), and multicolor pack of highlighters.

I hope that you have a magnificent summer. Be adventurous, learn something new every day, and enjoy your reading. I will be praying for you as you prepare to enter a new school year!

Blessings,  
Mary Cullen Dixon

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18*

[https://www.amazon.com/Separate-Peace-John-Knowles/dp/0743253973/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=3V8443X24GFTI&keywords=a+separate+peace+by+john+knowles&qid=1653506841&s=books&prefix=A+separate+%2Cstripbooks%2C284&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Separate-Peace-John-Knowles/dp/0743253973/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3V8443X24GFTI&keywords=a+separate+peace+by+john+knowles&qid=1653506841&s=books&prefix=A+separate+%2Cstripbooks%2C284&sr=1-1)



## *A Separate Peace: Summer Reading Project*

Each written component of your project should be neatly handwritten in a composition (non-spiral) notebook which you will have to turn in **on the first day of class**. You can then use this same notebook as your English journal for our class this year. You will also be taking a reading test on the novel during our first full class period. **In addition to completing the written components, you must *annotate* (interact with) the text. Purchase your own copy of the book. Make notes in the margins, circle unfamiliar vocabulary/place names, underline or highlight clues, put stars by passages that stick out to you. Use page flags to mark particularly important sections .**

### **Written Components:**

#### **1. Before you Read:**

- a. In your composition journal, reflect on the following questions BEFORE YOUR READ. Each page should be labeled and numbered accordingly:

Page 1 -

1. Examine the front cover of the book while analyzing the font choice, color selections, pictures, and anything else regarding the design of the front cover. Write your insights down.
2. Think about the title of the book. Define each word then write down how the words fit together. Make a prediction about the book based on the title in complete sentences.
3. Read the back or inside cover to find praise for the book. What are some of the adjectives that stand out to you as ways to describe this book? Write these down and make a prediction about what this book will be like in complete sentences.

Page 2 -

1. Consider what you know about or what you have heard about private schools.
  - a. What are your expectations of what life in a private ALL boys or girl's school would be like? Answer in complete sentences.
  - b. Would the conflicts and relationships be any different from those in a coed school?
2. Research Phillips Exeter Academy where the novel is set: <http://www.exeter.edu/>
  - a. How much does it cost to attend and board at the Phillips Exeter Academy per year?
  - b. What does a typical day look like for a Phillips Exeter student? Write out a detailed schedule for a Phillips Exeter student on any given day. Include times, classes, and extracurricular activities.
  - c. Divide the cost of attendance at the Phillips Exeter academy by an estimate of how many days a boarding student would be there per year (find their school calendar). How much does a typical-day-in-the-life of a Phillips Exeter Academy student cost?



Page 3-

1. Think about “Frenemies”: (answer in complete sentences)
  - a. What are some possible causes of jealousy between friends?
  - b. How can a friendship turn into a form of frenemies?
  - c. Do frenemies always cause negative outcomes, or could they possibly produce positive results?
  - d. What are some reasons people stay friends with frenemies?
2. Read this article about frenemies from Scientific American: “Fickle Friends How to Deal with Frenemies”  
[https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fickle-friends/&ust=1653592260000000&usg=AOvVaw3ahPDJj9FsY8nkr8PVz8Bu&hl=en&source=google\\_mail](https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fickle-friends/&ust=1653592260000000&usg=AOvVaw3ahPDJj9FsY8nkr8PVz8Bu&hl=en&source=google_mail)
  - e. Using evidence from the article, explain why people stay in contact with “frenemies” even though it is unhealthy.

Page 4 - contemplate friendship and betrayal (answer in complete sentences)

1. How would you respond if you suspected your best friend of trying to keep you from being successful or happy?
2. What would you do if you still cared about your friend even though you felt betrayed?
3. Read this article about toxic friendships:  
<https://www.bustle.com/articles/113319-7-signs-you-have-a-toxic-friendship>
  - a. Without naming names, reflect on (in complete sentences) if you do indeed have a toxic friend. Or, if you are really brave, discuss one of these things that you have done to be a toxic friend to someone else.

Page 5 -

1. watch this video about WWII and America’s call to arms:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T59m6kGr24o>
2. Ponder the terms war and peace: (answer in complete sentences)
  - a. What is your definition of peace? Consider the wars and aftermaths of war that exist in our world today.
  - b. Have you ever felt an obligation to join the military? Why?
  - c. How would your life or thoughts about war be different if a draft was announced?
  - d. Of what does your own personal (separate) peace consist? In other words, do you ever feel guilty about living peacefully while war efforts are going on in other parts of the world? Why or why not?

**DO NOT READ THIS  
PART OF THE PROJECT  
UNTIL YOU ARE  
FINISHED READING  
THE NOVEL!**



**2. *After You Read:***

In preparation for a mock trial we will hold in class, pick a side and write a thoughtful literary analysis arguing for or against Gene being responsible for Finny's death. **USE DETAILS FROM THE TEXT.** Remember the lit analysis essay you did at the end of last year for English 1 Honors. Don't summarize the story, but use details and direct evidence to support your stance and analyze the text to prove your point.

**Requirements:**

- a. 4 paragraphs of at least five sentences each (intro, two supporting, conclusion)
- b. Direct quotes properly cited and cite the book at the end on a works cited page
- c. Title, header, page number (MLA format)
- d. No first person, no second person, all written in present tense
- e. Identify the book, author, and stance you are taking in a strong thesis statement in your introduction paragraph
- f. Proper grammar, spelling, etc.

Pro Tip\* - the more you interact with the text while you read, the more easily you will be able to complete this assignment.

You will be required to turn a hard copy of your paper into Mrs. Dixon on the first day of class along with your journal from the pre-reading assignment.

Happy Reading!!!

See you in August!

Love,  
Mrs. Dixon