

2026 English 10 L3 Summer Reading Assignment

Novel: [*A Separate Peace*](#), by John Knowles

Background:

From the publisher: *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:

All ninth grade students entering English 10 L3 are asked to read *A Separate Peace* and take notes on the novel. On the second day of class, students will have an in-class assessment on the novel. Students will be able to use the novel for this assessment, **but they will not have access to their notes and annotations.**

As you read the novel, keep the following questions in mind:

1. How does an author use setting to help us understand a story?
2. What social forces impact the characters and their lives?

A note template for both texts will be provided, but you may take notes and annotations as you see fit.

Any response found to have been influenced by unattributed outside sources, including but not limited to internet websites like SparkNotes.com or AI Chatbots (such as ChatGPT) will automatically receive a zero and will result in a referral to the grade principal.

Due Date: First day of class, read *A Separate Peace*. Second day of class: come prepared to write an assessment.

- Scan for Digital Graphic Organizer

