

A Separate Peace Reading Guide II

Chapters 6-10

Directions--Save a copy of this document. For each section, preview the vocab and answer the preview question before reading. During and after reading, answer the other questions thoughtfully in blue ink.

Name:

Chapters 6 & 7

Into the Text--vocab or allusions in Chapters 6-7

fratricide—the act of killing one’s own brother or sister. Here, Brinker’s characterization of Gene’s doing away with Finny.

contretemps—(French) an inopportune happening causing confusion or embarrassment; awkward mishap. Here, Gene uses the word to play down the seriousness of Finny’s fall.

interned—detained or confined (foreign persons, ships, etc.) as during a war. Here, confined in a prison for the war, the fate of many Japanese-Americans. When the boys question Quackenbush’s loyalty, they wonder why he has not been confined as an enemy alien.

Mussolini (1883-1945)—Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator. Fascist prime minister of Italy (1922-1943), executed; called *Il Duce*. Here, someone questioning Quackenbush’s loyalty asks if he intends to join Mussolini’s army, the enemy of the Allies.

Kraut—(slang) a German or person of German ancestry; a derogatory term.

Pearl Harbor—inlet on the southern coast of Oahu, Hawaii, near Honolulu; the site of the United States naval base bombed by Japan on December 7, 1941. Here, the reference to the base denotes the entrance of the United States into World War II.

Abominable Snowman—a large, hairy, man-like creature reputed to live in the Himalayas; also called yeti. Here, Leper in his ski gear reminds Brinker of the creature.

Golden Fleece—(Greek Mythology) the fleece of gold guarded by a dragon that hung in a sacred grove at Cochis. Jason and the Argonauts took it away. Here, the term is used as the name of the Devon debating society, emphasizing the club’s exclusive quality, unconnected to reality.

Preview Question: Review the end of Chapter 5 (p. 70-71) Do you agree with Gene’s decision to “untell” the truth of his actions on the tree to protect Finny and their friendship? Explain to what degree. Do you think Gene can “make it up” to Finny at Devon?

Through the Text Answer the following questions while reading the assignment.

Chapter 6

1. How is Mr. Pike dressed on the opening day of school? _____

2. What two rivers flow through Devon? _____

3. What job does Gene apply for? _____

4. With whom does Gene fight? _____
5. Who does Mr. Ludsbury call the "old boys"? _____
6. Who calls Gene on the telephone at the end of the chapter? _____

Chapter 7

1. Why doesn't Gene have a roommate?

2. Where do the boys go to smoke? ____

3. What are the two things the boys do to help the war effort? _____
4. What is Leper doing when Gene first meets him in this chapter? _____
5. Whom does Gene find in his room when he returns? _____

Beyond the Text Answer the following questions after reading.

1. How does Gene understand the message of the sermon on the first day back?
2. Is Brinker Hadley the type of person you'd like to have as a friend? Explain why or why not.
3. Why does Gene want to be crew manager instead of going out for a sport?
4. Why does Quackenbush's comment of Gene being "maimed" cause Gene to fight?
5. Why is Gene relieved when Finny tells him that he, Gene, must play sports for him?
6. Why does Gene become upset when Brinker jokingly accuses him of fratricide?
7. Even though picking apples contributes to the war effort, why doesn't it seem to make the war closer to the boys?

8. Describe how Gene treats Leper differently from Brinker when Gene encounters Leper while going to shovel snow from the railroad tracks.

9. How does shoveling snow from the railroad tracks bring the war closer to the boys?

10. Why does Gene really decide to enlist?

Chapters 8-9

Into the Text--vocab or allusions in Chapters 8-9

Chapter 8

Elliott Roosevelt—the son of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), 32nd president of the United States. Here, Gene refuses to enlist with Brinker, even if he were the son of the president. In turn, Brinker claims a family connection with the wealthy, powerful Roosevelts.

the Eton playing fields observation—“Eton” town in Buckinghamshire, on the Thames, near London; site of a private preparatory school for boys. Here, Mr. Ludsbury refers to the phrase used by the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852). In the Duke’s opinion, the Battle of Waterloo, in which the British defeated the French led by Napoleon, was won “on the playing fields of Eton,” the result of the spirit of the British officers who first learned to compete in the vigorous games of their schools, notably the prestigious Eton.

General MacArthur—Douglas Mac Arthur (1880-1964), United States general, commander in chief of the Allied troops in the southwest Pacific during World War II

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek—the wife of Chiang Kai-Shek (1888-1975), Chinese generalissimo and head of the Nationalist government on Taiwan. Here, a reference to the couple’s representation of wartime China in international circles.

Yellow Peril—the threat to Western civilization presented by Asian people, especially those of China or Japan; widely believed in during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in North America, Europe, and Australia. Here, Finny gives Brinker the nickname when Gene says he is really Madame Chiang Kai-Shek.

Preview Question: Predict how you think Finny and Gene’s relationship will be now that Finny has returned.

Through the Text: Answer the following questions while reading the assignment.

Chapter 8

1. Why are there no maids at Devon when Finny returns? _____
2. Where do Gene and Finny go when they cut class? _____
3. Who does Finny feel has “made up” the war? _____
4. What does Finny say he is training Gene for? _____

Chapter 9

1. Why did Leper spend the night on Mt. Katahdin in Maine? _____

2. What causes Leper to enlist? _____

3. What is name of the celebration Finny organizes? _____

4. To whom is Leper's telegram addressed? _____

Beyond the Text: Answer the following questions after reading.

1. How does Finny feel about Gene's proposed enlistment? How can you tell?
2. How does Finny have his own "separate peace"?
3. Why do you think Finny makes up his theory of the war?
4. What is ironic about Leper's joining the ski troops?
5. Why do the boys invent stories of Leper as a war hero?
6. Explain the symbolism in burning a copy of the *Iliad* to begin the games.
7. How does the Winter Carnival give the boys their own "separate peace"?
8. In what sense does Leper's telegram destroy this "separate peace"?

Chapter 10

Into the Text. Allusions you will come across in your reading.

Hitler Youth—"Hitler" Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) Nazi dictator of Germany (1933-1945) born in Austria. Here, the term refers to a Nazi program designed to promote discipline and loyalty in German children and adolescents. Finny uses it in his joking description of the free-for-all snowball fight.

Athens—capital of Greece, in the southeastern part of the country; Athens became established as the center of Greek culture in the 5th century B.C., when it was the capital of ancient Attica. Here, a model for Devon.

Sparta—ancient city of Laconia in the Peloponnesus, a peninsula forming the southern mainland of Greece. Here, a model for the representatives of various branches of the military.

LST—the initials stand for “land ship tank”; a vessel designed to land large numbers of troops on a beach quickly.

Preview Question: Why do you think Leper sent Gene a telegram at the end of chapter 9?

Through the Text: Answer the following questions while reading the assignment.

Chapter 10

1. Where does Leper live? _____
2. In which room does Leper prefer to stay? _____
3. From what did Leper “escape”? _____
4. What is a “Section Eight”? _____
5. What does Leper call Gene that upsets Gene? _____
6. What does Gene do at the end of the chapter? _____

Beyond the Text: Answer the following questions after reading.

- 1.
2. Why does Leper prefer the dining room of all of the rooms in his house?
3. Why does Gene knock Leper from the chair when Leper calls him a “savage underneath”?
4. Why does Gene get upset when Leper describes his hallucinations?

Quoting Practice

Write a well developed paragraph that makes a claim about a theme you see developing in Chapters 6-10. You must quote the text to support the claim. We practiced this in class last week but everyone definitely need more work. Consult the quoting chapter in *They Say/I Say* if you need a refresher.

The basic format for this paragraph should be:

Claim:

Context and Intro to Quote

Quote and Reference

Commentary to connect the quote back to the claim.

Write the paragraph below.