



Mr. Piper's Summer Reading for Honors Sophomores

- ***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (any edition)**

There are three assignments accompanying the reading:

- (1) **Twenty-question Quiz.** The quiz will be taken in class during the first several days of school. Questions will address characters and events in the story. All questions will be objective and will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and matching.
- (2) **Five Memes.** Create five different memes inspired by five different characters, moments, or quotes in the novel. Have some creative fun with this, and share your memes with me (kpiper@lcamn.org) as a Google Doc before the first day of school.
- (3) **900 Words of Reflective Writing.** Use your choice(s) from the bulleted questions below to respond to the novel. You may choose to write one 900-word response, two 450-word responses, or three 300-word responses. While these are not formal essays, your ideas should be expressed clearly and must be supported by specific details in the book. Include the page number in parentheses each time you include a detail, paraphrase, or quote. Edit your paragraphs and sentences for correctness. Share your writing with me (kpiper@lcamn.org) as a Google Doc before the first day of school.

Here are questions to get you thinking and writing:

- Choose any significant character. What does s/he want most? What obstacles are in the way of this? Are you satisfied by the resolution of this desire for that character?
- The story is framed by Gene's return to the school years after being a student. How would the impact be different if it focused only on the boys' time as students?
- A symbol is an ordinary thing that also has a larger, more significant meaning. Discuss a line of dialogue that has both a literal meaning intended by the character and a symbolic meaning that we readers recognize as significant.

- Is it accurate to call Gene and Finny “frenemies”? What are the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship?
- What could Gene and/or Finny learn from one of the other boys at the school?
- How much does the setting of the story (geographical and historical) matter?
- At the end of the novel, Gene says, “[M]y war ended before I even put on a uniform; I was on active duty all my time at school; I killed my enemy there.” What enemy (or enemies!) might he mean here?
- And finally, a wide-open one for you: Forgiveness, honesty, love, and other Christian virtues are pivotal in the story. Discuss what the story shows us about one of these.

Additional Summer Reading

Find a copy of *The Best American Poetry* (David Lehman, series editor) from any year. These are readily available in public libraries, used bookstores, and online booksellers. Read at least 15 of the 75 poems in it. Then choose your favorite three, and practice reading those aloud before creating a Flipgrid poetry reading video for me and your classmates to enjoy.

In the video, introduce yourself and the book you are reading from, including its year and editor(s). Before reading each of the three poems, let us know its title, its poet, and one sentence about why you appreciated it and selected it to read. Read each poem slowly, clearly, and with feeling. After reading all three, thank us for watching.

Thanks in advance--I look forward to seeing these!