

AP Language Summer Homework

Assignments Overview: Summer reading is a traditional part of AP Language Arts courses. For this year's summer reading, you will be reading John Knowles' *A Separate Peace* and completing **both a dialectic journal and a study guide**. These assignments are to be accomplished independently—you are not to work with others, but do your own best work. For your convenience, you may check out a copy of the novel at the Cathedral City High School library. You may also purchase a book or borrow from the local library.

Assignment 1

Directions: As you read your novel, mark passages that you find particularly interesting and important. It may be that the passage reveals something significant about a character; it may contain a thought-provoking concept; its language or the way it's written may be particularly striking.

Once you have found 12 passages, please write your dialectics in the following manner:

- In the far left column, copy verbatim the passage you have selected; if the passage is very long, you may use ellipses. Provide the page number where the passage occurs.
- In the middle column, give the passage some context. Here, you need to clearly show that you understand what is happening at this point of the story. Consider details such as who is the passage about. What is happening in the passage, or immediately before and after it? When and where do these events take place? How and why are these events taking place?
- In the far right column, write a response to the passage. Responses can take many forms. For example, you may explain what you have learned from the passage, perhaps about a character or an idea. You may compare or contrast the passage to another moment in the story, or even to something else you have read. If the passage raises a thought-provoking question in your mind, then state the question and then respond to it. Most importantly, do NOT simply give a plot summary or repeat what you have said in the 2nd column. A well-developed response should take **at least 5-7 sentences**.

There is a sample of what your dialectics should look like on the next page. In this sample, Microsoft Word's "Table" option is used; you do not have to use Table, but your final work must be neatly organized in 3 clear columns.

Requirements

Please adhere to the following requirements. Papers that do not adhere to these requirements will not be eligible for full credit.

- 12 dialectics (include selections from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel)
- Typed in a legible 12 point font (Arial or Times New Roman)
- Dialectics arranged in 3 columns (you may orient your paper as a landscape rather than portrait).
- Please refrain from using second-person (you). You may use first-person for this assignment.
- Due: Friday of the first week of school.

If you have questions, you may email Mrs. Jarsma at mjarsma@psusd.us

The passages for the following sample dialectics come from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*.*

Quote/Passage	Context/Summary	Reader Response
<p>1. That was Gandalf's mark, of course, and the old man was Gandalf the wizard, whose fame in the Shire was due mainly to his skill with fires, smokes, and lights. His real business was far more difficult and dangerous, but the Shire-folk knew nothing about it. To them he was just one of the 'attractions' at the Party. 'G for Grand!' they shouted, and the old man smiled. (46)</p>	<p>This passage occurs in the opening chapter of the novel. It introduces the character, Gandalf, the wizard who leads the fight against Sauron. In this passage, Gandalf arrives at the Shire to celebrate Bilbo's birthday. He is greeted by the hobbit children, who are excited by the fireworks in his wagon.</p>	<p>In this passage, Tolkien neatly balances direct and indirect characterization to introduce the wizard Gandalf. The first two sentences of the paragraph are direct; he reveals how Gandalf has two sides, one that is playful and another that is dangerous. The final two sentences are indirect; he reveals Gandalf's kindness through his reaction to the children's shouting. Also, he shows how Gandalf is a protector of innocence in the way he accepts the children's mistaking the meaning of the letter G. The paragraph also contrasts Gandalf with the Shire-folk. The Shire-folk are simple, friendly, perhaps naïve, but in a harmless way. One gets a sense of their simplicity through their exclamation, "G for Grand," which is very short and straightforward, and uses only monosyllabic words. Gandalf, in contrast, is a world traveler who is conscious of the world's complexity.</p>
<p>2. Bilbo flushed, and there was an angry light in his eyes. His kindly face grew hard. 'Why not?' he cried. 'And what business is it of yours, anyway, to know what I do with my own things? It is my own. I found it. It came to me.'</p> <p>'Yes, yes,' said Gandalf. 'But there is no need to get angry.'</p> <p>'If I am it is your fault,' said Bilbo. 'It is mine, I tell you. My own. My precious. Yes, my precious.'</p> <p>The wizard's face remained grave and attentive, and only a flicker in his deep eyes showed that he was startled and indeed alarmed. 'It has been called that before,' he said, 'but not by you.'</p> <p>'But I say it now. And why not? Even if Gollum said the same once. It's not his now, but mine. And I shall keep it I say.' (55-56)</p>	<p>This private exchange between Bilbo and Gandalf also occurs in the opening chapter, just after Bilbo escapes his own birthday party by putting on the ring. Here, Gandalf intercepts Bilbo before he can leave the Shire and take the ring of power with him. When he confronts Bilbo about the ring, Bilbo becomes angry and refuses to leave it as he had promised. Gandalf becomes alarmed when Bilbo calls the ring his "precious" because it is clear that the ring is changing Bilbo. He is becoming obsessed and corrupted by his desire for it, just as Gollum was before him.</p>	<p>A frightening moment! What is wonderful here, though, is how Tolkien develops Bilbo's obsession with the ring. Bilbo begins with defensive and hostile questions that set him in opposition to Gandalf. At some point in every speech, he declares that the ring is his, and usually he says this more than once. And, what is most effective is the number of times Bilbo uses either himself ("I") or the ring ("it") as the subject or object of the sentence. For instance, in his first speech, Bilbo says, "<u>It is my own. I found it. It came to me.</u>" The switching back and forth between "it" and "I" as the sentence subjects reflects a battle occurring inside Bilbo's soul. Bilbo's true identity, that of a kind-hearted, generous hobbit, is being lost to a desire for a ring that is so strong that Bilbo practically thinks that he cannot live without the ring—in essence, that he is the ring, or that the ring is his identity.</p>

* Tolkien, John R. R. *The Fellowship of the Ring*. New York: Ballantine-Random House, 1993.

Assignment 2

Please type your answers to the following questions. Use Times New Roman or Arial font. Do not re-write the questions; answer in such a way that the question you are answering is obvious.

Study Guide

A Separate Peace

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?