

**Advanced Placement English III
Summer Reading Assignments
New Albany High School**

Texts: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Materials: All assignments should be clearly labeled and placed in a three-ring binder. Divide the binder into two sections and label them as follows:

A Separate Peace Assignments and The Scarlet Letter Assignments
Advanced Placement English III
Mrs. King
Date

*Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will result in a grade of "0". Be sure to cite all quotations and borrowed ideas. While collaborating with others in the class to discuss the books is acceptable, you should complete all assignments **independently**. If you are not able to complete these assignments on your own, you may not be prepared for the level of work required in this class.

Assignments for *A Separate Peace*

I. Notes

- As you read, take notes for each chapter. Write down anything that you feel is significant (summary, character descriptions, symbols, etc.).
- In addition to your own notes, write down a minimum of 5 important quotes from each chapter and describe the significance of each quote.
- Your notes **do not** have to be written in a paragraph format. You can use bullets, listing, abbreviations, etc. These are your notes!
- Be sure to label each chapter, so I know when you start a new chapter. You can use the front and back of a piece of paper.

II. Analysis

Directions: Choose 1 of the following questions; write a 2-3 page typed (double-spaced) essay analyzing the statement. Be sure to incorporate quotations from the novel to support your ideas (use proper MLA). Below is an example of how to properly incorporate quotations from the book into sentences. Quotes can never stand alone as a sentence. Also, remember to include the page number. Use 1" margins and 12-point Times New Roman or Tahoma Font.

Sample Analysis Paragraph:

The two main characters, Gene and Phineas, are known throughout Devon as being best friends. Everyone thinks them to be inseparable and the perfect match for each other; however, Gene distrusts Finny with "that level of feeling, deeper than thought, which contains the truth" (48). Gene is jealous of Finny because he is more popular and more athletic than he; as a result, he believes Finny "deliberately set[s] out to wreck [his] studies," and an unusual anger arouses within him (53).

Incorporating Quotes into Sentences:

Ex: Deluding himself, Gene believes, "Finny [has] deliberately set out to wreck his studies" (53).

Ex: Hypnotized by Finny's compelling personality, Gene [takes] off his clothes and . . . climb[s] the pegs" to the top of the tree (16).

Essay Questions: Choose 1

1. The narrator of *A Separate Peace*, Gene Forrester, looks back as an adult on his experiences as a student. Sometimes he seems to speak as the student; at other times he relates or comments on events as an adult. Analyze Gene as the protagonist as he examines, retrospectively, his own lesson in maturity and responsibility.

2. According to Christopher Forbes, "Gene Forrester is a character whose worst enemy is himself. Although he is a capable athlete and an excellent student, Forrester is unable to prevent the dark side of his inner self from perverting and distorting his enjoyment of the world and the people around him." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3. Christopher Forbes suggests, "Finny may symbolize the kind of person Forrester wishes he could be; Finny is an almost complete opposite of Forrester, a natural athlete and a complete individualist, interested in immediate and innocuous personal pleasures. Against the confining background of the Devon School strictures, Finny constructs his own world out of his imagination." Compare and contrast Gene and Finny.

4. William Shakespeare said, "Never waste jealousy on a real man: it is the imaginary man that supplants us all in the long run." Analyze how this statement relates to the novel.

Assignments for The Scarlet Letter

I. Notes

- As you read, take notes for each chapter. Write down anything that you feel is significant (summary, character descriptions, symbols, etc.).
- For each chapter, write down a minimum of 5 important quotes and describe the significance of each quote.
- Your notes **do not** have to be written in a paragraph format. You can use bullets, listing, abbreviations, etc. These are your notes!
- Be sure to label each chapter, so I know when you start a new chapter. You can use the front and back of a piece of paper.

II. Analysis

Directions: Read the notes on Hawthorne and the description of motifs or recurring themes from his novel. Then, find a minimum of 10 quotes from the novel for each theme. Be sure to include the page number and discuss why the quotation is representative of that theme.

The Dark Romantic: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

- Valued intuition and feeling over logic and reason.
- Explored the conflict between good and evil, the psychological effects of guilt and sin, and the madness of the human psyche.
- Saw the horror of evil.
- Viewed the intellectual who uses his knowledge to hurt others as the greatest villain.
- To violate the sanctity of the human heart is the greatest sin.
- Tampering with nature is a sin.
- Searching for forbidden knowledge is a sin.

Motifs/Themes: The Scarlet Letter

I. Head/Heart Metaphor

- Hawthorne felt that individuals should neither be too intellectual or too emotional. Individuals who had little regard for others were considered villainous. Individuals should balance head with heart.

II. Forbidden Knowledge Metaphor

- In many of Hawthorne's stories, an individual searches for some type of forbidden knowledge (or secret) that would be better left undiscovered. However, that individual relentlessly pursues that knowledge, hurting people along the quest, until that knowledge is obtained. Unfortunately, the discovery of the secret is always detrimental to someone involved.

III. Hidden Sin/Guilt

- Hawthorne examines the effects of hidden guilt and sin on the individual's conscience.

IV. Isolation/Magic Circle of Humanity

- In the strict puritan society, an individual who sinned was ostracized, never to regain his/her good reputation. Hawthorne portrays that individual as an outcast, outside the "magic circle" of humanity.

