

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading Assignment

Hello! Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts. Your summer reading assignment is below. Please complete it to the best of your ability. We will be discussing the novel and completing follow-up assignments on the novel in class in the first weeks of school. If you have questions concerning the assignment, you can reach me at [8thgradeeladfa@gmail.com](mailto:8thgradeeladfa@gmail.com) this summer. I am happy to answer any questions, and I look forward to meeting you in August!

- 1) Read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. *\*Warning: the author uses explicit language in this book to convey realistic communication and thoughts (verisimilitude) among and within characters.*
- 2) Complete the following quote journal (instructions and examples below) on the text. **Due August 8. It will count as a quiz grade.**
- 3) Complete the Letter of Introduction. **Due the first day of school. It will count as a homework grade.**

### **I. Literary Analysis**

The purpose of literary analysis is to carefully examine and evaluate a work of literature or an aspect of that work by breaking the text down into its component parts. The parts work together to communicate the author's intended messages about life, humanity, or society, so examining the different elements is a process to help you better understand the work of literature and its message. We will be taking steps toward learning how to analyze literature more in-depth this year.

### **Quote Journal Instructions**

**Top of page:** In the upper left corner: your name, course name, date. Put each piece of information a separate line and double space. On the next line, center the title of the assignment: Summer Reading Quote Journal. This is MLA format. See below as example. (MLA format traditionally has the teacher's name as the second line. We are skipping that part this time since you don't technically have it yet.)

Anastasia Smith

English Language Arts 8

August 8, 2019

Summer Reading Quote Journal

### **Section 1: Character Analysis**

Skip one line from the title and make two columns. In the left column, record **three quotes from or about each major character (Gene, Phineas, Elwin, Brinker)** that reveal something important about that character. *Be sure to identify who the quote is from and include an appropriately formatted MLA in-text citation for each quote.* In the right column, include your in-depth observations about what each quote reveals of the character. For example, what is the author telling you about the character through the quote you chose? Go **beyond** retelling what the author says in the quote you selected. Ask yourself and record what the author is **suggesting or implying**. This observation is where I should see evidence of your thinking beyond the author's words by drawing inferences. These observations are the beginning stages of your literary analysis. *Use literary terminology where possible. Quotes chosen should be selected from throughout the novel. Separate each quote vertically by a line or a space, please.*

**Format:**

<b>Characterization Quote:</b> (Include character and in-text citation)	<b>Characterization Analysis:</b>
<u>From Gene-</u> 1) “Quote” (citation). (skip a line) 2) “Quote” (citation). (skip a line) 3) “Quote” (citation).	1)  2)  3)

**Example:**

<b>Characterization Quote:</b> (Include character and in-text citation)	<b>Characterization Analysis:</b>
<u>From Gene/about Finny-</u> 1) “He weighed a hundred and fifty pounds, a galling ten pounds more than I did, which flowed from his legs to torso around shoulders to arms and full strong neck in an uninterrupted, unemphatic unity of strength” (Knowles 8).	<p>The author has Gene describe Finny (short for Phineas) to the reader in <u>first person point-of-view</u>. Doing this lets the reader know Gene’s thoughts and observations about Finny and the other <u>characters</u> in the story. At this point, I am not sure what the relationship is between these two <u>characters</u>, but Gene also calls him the “best athlete in school,” just before this description. In this description, Gene makes Finny out to be muscular and strong, so it seems like Gene has respect and admiration for Finny’s athletic build and ability. I wonder if that also means he is jealous. The <u>tone</u> of the quote does not make it seem like he is, but since he mentions that Finny is ten pounds heavier than he is, I still wonder. Also, “galling” means annoying or humiliating, so that lets us know that Gene could be annoyed that Finny weighs more than him.</p> <p><i>**Do not merely explain the quote or provide plot summary. You may not use this quote in your journal. Your quote choice can go beyond physical description. They can include what a character believes, values, or feels. All of these reveal who the character really is, and that is what we want to explore.</i></p>

**Section 2: Setting**

Using the same 2-column format, find **3 quotes** that reveal something significant about the setting (time, place, season, culture, historical context, etc.). In your analysis, focus on **how the setting helps the reader better understand the text, a character, and/or the meaning of the work (the big ideas)**. Hint: Devon School plays a big part in this text. Look for quotes about it, maybe? Refer to the sample characterization quote and analysis above as a model. *Use literary terminology where possible. Quotes chosen should be selected from throughout the novel. Separate each quote vertically by a line or a space, please.*

<b>Setting Quotes (Author’s Last Name Page #)</b>	<b>Setting Analysis</b>

**Section 3: Symbols**

Using the same 2-column format, find **3 quotes** that reveal symbols in the work. You can give different symbols, or you can do the same one if you see it more than once in the text. A symbol can be a concrete object,

or it can be a more abstract idea. In the right column, **tell what your chosen symbol represents, and provide analysis that tells what you think the author means from it being in the book.** Refer to the sample characterization quote and analysis above as a model. *Use literary terminology where possible. Quotes chosen should be selected from throughout the novel. Separate each quote vertically by a line or a space, please.*

Symbol Quotes (Author's Last Name Page #)	Symbol Analysis

#### Section 4: Vocabulary

Using the same 2-column format, find at least **5 quotes** that reveal the author's writing style through his use of high-level vocabulary words that are unfamiliar to you. Underline the vocabulary word in the quote you select. In your analysis, focus on **the impact the notable vocabulary word has on you, the reader, by including the word's denotation (dictionary definition) and connotation (feelings and ideas associated with the word)**. Refer to the sample characterization quote and analysis above as a model. *Use literary terminology where possible. Quotes chosen should be selected from throughout the novel. Separate each quote vertically by a line or a space, please.*

Vocabulary Quotes (Author's Last Name Page #)	Vocabulary Analysis:

#### Observations on quote analysis:

- \*Use your best writing to demonstrate your capabilities as a writer and a thinker. Mechanics will be part of the grade you earn for this assignment.
- \*It is okay to refer to other events in the text in your quote analysis. You can mention things that came before the quote when discussing your quote.
- \*Your best option will be to select quotes as you read. You can more effectively analyze quotes when they have had an immediate impact on you.
- \*Assessment will be based on the following: meaningful quote selections; intentional and accurate use of literary techniques; depth of analysis (insightful observations and thought-provoking questions); mechanics/appearance of final product (neat, organized, attentive to grammar/punctuation/spelling/typographical errors); completion and following directions.

#### II. Letter of Introduction:

You will compose a *letter* of introduction of a minimum of four paragraphs. Please include the following:

1. Introduce yourself! Give your name and some background information about yourself. Please include your main area of specialty at DFA, how you got into that area, and what you plan to do with it in your future. Include any other areas of specialty, hobbies, interests, accomplishments, travels, pets, siblings, etc.
2. Tell me about your past reading and writing experiences, as well as your past English classes. What have you liked and/or not liked about your other English classes? What is most challenging for you in reading and writing? What comes easy for you? What is your favorite genre to read? Why? What is your most favorite book you have ever read and why?
3. What are your personal strengths and weaknesses? Include those of school and life.
4. What are your academic and personal goals for this year? What steps do you have in place to accomplish them?

*\*Please provide as much information as you feel comfortable sharing. Clearly, the more I know, the more I can celebrate your successes, understand your struggles, and provide help where needed.*

\*Please let me know at the bottom of your letter if you do NOT have internet and/or printing capabilities at home.