

Grade 12 Summer Reading James Hubert Blake High School 2011

All rising 12th grade students will read **John Knowles's** novel *A Separate Peace*.

The novel can be found at local libraries, area book stores, and through Blake's English Dept. during the week of final exams. To check out a copy, please see Mr. Kelley in B226.

When you return to Blake in the fall, your English teacher will determine your comprehension and knowledge of the text through a variety of assessments of his or her choosing: an objective test, a Socratic Seminar, and/or an essay. Make sure to read the novel entirely. Do NOT rely on SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, and the like. We value your ideas, and only if you read will you have anything of value to share with us.

Following are the two assignments you are to complete independently and turn in on **Wednesday, August 31st**. Please read the directions carefully and complete each assignment thoroughly.

Assignment 1: Vocabulary

As you read *A Separate Peace*, note **twenty vocabulary words** and the page number on which you found each word. Select words that are unfamiliar to you, but if you are confident you know *all the words in the text*, select twenty words you feel are important as a good reader to know.

Copy the sentence from the text containing each word. Look up the words in the dictionary and record the correct definition **for the context in which it's used**.

Example: **"Come on," drawled Finny from below, "stop standing there showing off," (9).**

1. drawl (9): to say or speak in a slow manner, usually prolonging the vowel sounds.

Your words and those of your classmates will be compiled for your first vocabulary assessment of the year. Don't just write them down; know them!

Assignment 2: Reader's Response

Below are two questions that ask you to look at the "big picture," or the novel as a whole, and draw some conclusions about the text. Write a minimum of one complete paragraph per answer. Make sure to use specific examples from the text to defend your ideas.

Question 1: Knowles argues that those who are truly innocent cannot survive in an adult world. Support or refute this argument with specific examples from the text.

Question 2: The story takes place during World War II with the deceptions of war serving as a backdrop to the novel. There are smaller "battles," taking place at the Devon School. Using specific examples from the text, discuss how the Devon School serves as a microcosm (smaller, parallel example) to the world during World War II. Consider character conflicts both internal (within themselves) and external (with other characters).

If you have any questions concerning the text selection or summer reading assignment, please contact the English Dept. Resource teacher Mrs. Di Monte: 301.879.1350 or Christine_H_DiMonte@mcpsmd.org.

Remember: The due date for these two assignments is *Wednesday, August 31st, 2011!*