

Annotation Guide for A Separate Peace

Each time you see examples of the words below, please annotate the novel.

1) --- The quotes on the next sheets

2) Characters

3) Setting

4) Themes, symbols & motifs:

- a. Rivers
- b. The tree
- c. Friendship
- d. Irresponsibility
- e. Illusion vs. reality
- f. War fought abroad vs. Summer session of school
- g. World War II and Finny
- h. A separate peace
- i. Denial and the Truth
- j. Conformity
- k. Finny's clothes
- l. Insecurity
- m. Conflict and war
- n. Blitzball & Snowball fight
- o. The Winter Carnival
- p. Human achievement
- q. Jealousy
- r. Songs
- s. Eden

*** Also, please annotate any places where you have questions or are confused so you can ask for clarification in class. ***

Quotation Identification

For each quote below, please give the chapter and page number, note who spoke the words, note who (if anyone) was being spoken to, note who (if anyone) was being spoken about, and the significance/meaning of the passage.



Chapters 1-7

- 1) “He had never been jealous of me for a second. Now I knew that there never was any rivalry between us. I was not the same quality as he. I couldn’t stand this.”

- 2) I lost part of myself to him then, and a soaring sense of freedom revealed that this must have been my purpose from the first: to become a part of Phineas.

- 3) “It’s part of the whole wrong idea...You never get to see the trees or anything. Oh you see a lot of trees shoot by, but you never get to really look at trees, at a tree. I just like going along and see what I’m passing and enjoy myself.”

- 4) Stranded in this mill town railroad yard while the whole world was converging elsewhere, we seemed to be nothing but children playing among heroic men.

Chapters 8-13

- 5) “What I mean is, I love winter, and when you really love something, then it loves you back, in whatever way it has to love.”

- 6) “No, I quit that. I’ve just been going to gym classes. The ones they have for guys who aren’t going out for anything.”

- 7) “There isn’t any warThe fat old men...don’t want us crowding them out of their jobs. They’ve made it all up.”

- 8) You had to be rude at least sometimes and edgy often to be credited with 'personality,' and without that accolade no one at Devon could be anyone. No one, with the exception of Phineas.
- 9) "They were going to give me a discharge, a Section Eight discharge."
- 10) "Well, let's see. It begins, 'When Caesar noticed that the enemy was remaining for several days at the camp fortified by a swamp and the nature of the terrain...'"
- 11) Naturally I don't believe books and I don't believe teachers, but I do believe – it's important for me to believe you. Christ, I've got to believe you, at least. I know you better than anybody.
- 12) "Why don't you just tell us in your words what happened? Just humor us, if you want to think of it that way. We aren't trying to make you feel bad. Just tell us."
- 13) "You want to break something else in me? Is that why you're here?"
- 14) "I tried to tell you before, I tried to tell you when I came to Boston that time."
- 15) Your war memories will be with you forever, you'll be asked about them thousands of times after the war is over. People will get their respect for you from that—partly from that, don't get

me wrong- but if you can say that you were up front where there was some real shooting going on, then that will mean a whole lot to you in years to come.

16) Wars were not made by generations and their special stupidities, but that wars were instead made by something ignorant in the human heart.

17) He possessed an extra vigor, a heightened confidence in himself, a serene capacity for affection which saved him. Nothing as he was growing up at home, nothing at Devon, nothing even about the war had broken his harmonious and natural unity.

All of them, all except Phineas, constructed at infinite cost to themselves these Maginot Lines against this enemy they thought they saw across the frontier, this enemy who never attacked that way-if he ever attacked at all; if he was indeed the enemy.