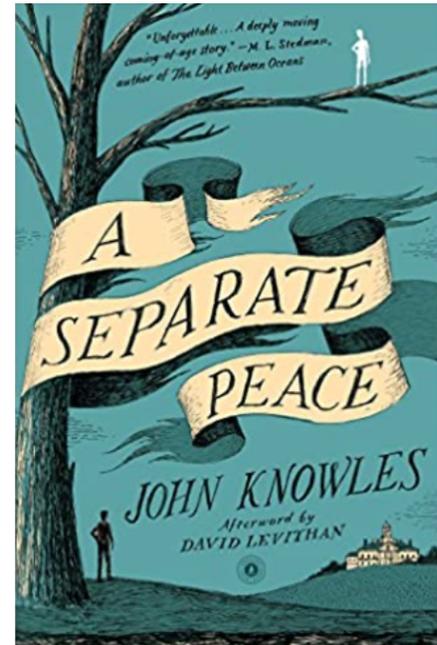




Summer Reading & Reflection Assignment

This reading and reflection assignment is required for students in English 9 Honors *in addition to* the all-school summer reading book selection program.

- The book is *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. Please obtain the [paper version ISBN 978-0743253970](#).
- Read and annotate it using the “Active Reading Strategies” explained on the following page.
- Once you’ve finished the book, read the reflection question below and just *think about it* for a while.
- After you’ve given it some thought, put together some notes (no more than one side of one page, in any format you want to use) that outline your thoughts in response to the question. (You may type, hand-write, use bullet points, etc. The format doesn’t matter; the content does. This is not an essay.)
- Bring your notes with you on the first day of class. They will be for your own use during our discussion.



Reflection Question

- What “wars”—other than the actual war—are being fought in this novel? Focus in on one such “war,” and offer your thoughts. Some things you might want to consider:
 - Who or what is in conflict in this “war,” and why?
 - What factors have caused it?
 - What complicates it?
 - Is peace possible, and if so, what would it look like?



Active Reading Strategies

“Active Reading” means you’re “engaged with” what you’re reading. That means you’re:

1. thinking about it,
2. questioning it, and
3. responding to it.

The first two are mental actions. The third is both a mental and physical action. The physical action should involve a combination of highlighting/underlining and writing in the margins. **A great deal of reliable brain research suggests the *physicality* of doing this on paper is more effective than making a digital markup.** However, if you do use an eBook, you should utilize the annotation/notetaking resources doing so provides.

Things to consider highlighting:

- Vocabulary
 - unfamiliar words you’re learning for the first time—look them up!
 - words used in a *way* you’re unfamiliar with—understand how they’re used!
- Plot
 - events that affect the characters or circumstances in important ways
 - conflicts and the events that play out in them
- Setting
 - the names and descriptions of key locations
 - places where the setting is important to the plot (what happens)
- Character
 - the names and descriptions of key characters
 - events that influence the relationships among characters
- Themes
 - parts of the book that seem to drop “big ideas” or leave you thinking
 - parts of the book that have strong emotional impact

Things to consider writing in the margins:

- Use new vocabulary words in a sentence of your own
- Your *reactions* (including *emotional response*) to something you’ve highlighted
- Your *questions* or *criticisms* about something you’ve highlighted
- Your *predictions* about the consequences of something you’ve highlighted
- Your *praise* for the written quality of something you’ve highlighted
- Your *sense of why something matters*
- Your *thoughts about how something connects to another work of literature*

Above all:

- Turn off distractions.
- Have a highlighter and pen in hand.
- Don’t be afraid to “mark up” a book. That’s how it becomes *yours*.