

Pre-AP English 10
Summer Reading Assignment 2011

Assignment: Do a Close Reading of *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. Reflecting on passages in the text, analyze how the protagonist, Gene, changes from the beginning of the novel to the end of the novel. Be prepared to write an in class essay over the novel the first week of school.

Note: Close Reading is one of the skills that AP students are expected to master. Close reading means explicating meaning from the text beyond the plot level. To “explicate” comes from a Latin word meaning to “unfold.”

Suggested activities for close reading include:

- Mark specific passages with sticky notes
- Write notes in the margin of the book next to the passage
- Chart passages which center around the protagonist’s development
- Identify examples of indirect characterization relating to the protagonist’s development

Close Reading activities will not be graded; however, students may refer to their Close Reading activities when writing the essay.