# Lesson 1

# **A Separate Peace**

Chapters 1-3

## **Lesson 1 Directions**

## Pre-Reading

- 1. Preview (read through) the study questions for A Separate Peace Chapters 1-3.
- 2. Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet for A Separate Peace Chapters 1-3.

### Reading

- 1. Read A Separate Peace Chapters 1-3.
- 2. Keep your study questions in mind as you read.

#### Post-Reading

- 1. Answer all of the study guide questions for Chapters 1-3.
- 2. Complete the Reader Response Assignment for Chapters 1-3.

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## Vocabulary Chapters 1-3 Part I

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the bold words mean in the space provided.

- 1. In the deep, **tacit** way in which feeling becomes stronger than thought
- 2. ... **capacious** Greek Revival temples lined the street, as impressive and just as forbidding as ever.
- 3. It is the beauty of small areas of order--a large yard, a group of trees, three similar dormitories, a circle of old houses--living together in **contentious** harmony.
- 4. Standing on this limb, you could by a **prodigious** effort jump far enough out into the river for safety.
- 5. ... trying hard not to sound as **inane** in our conversation with the four present Masters and their wives as they sounded to us.
- 6. I never got **inured** to the jumping. At every meeting the limb seemed higher, thinner, the deeper water harder to reach.
- 7. There was something **inebriating** in the suppleness of this feat. When I thought about it my head felt a little dizzy and my stomach began to tingle.

## Vocabulary Chapters 1-3 Part II

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

tacit
A. Spacious; roomy
capacious
Lacking in sense or substance
contentious
Intoxicating
prodigious
nored
To get used to something undesirable
inured
Quarrelsome; not getting along

G. Extraordinary; impressively great

7. \_\_\_\_ inebriating

# Study Questions Chapters 1-3

- 1. What two sites did the narrator go back to see at Devon?
- 2. Who is Phineas?
- 3. What unusual thing did Phineas talk Gene into doing?
- 4. Why were the boys not punished for jumping out of the tree?
- 5. Identify Mr. Prud-homme and Mr. Patch-Withers.

6. What was the Super Suicide Society of the Summer Session?

#### Study Questions Chapters 1-3 Page 2

7. Gene said, "I didn't need to feel any tremendous rush of gratitude towards Phineas." Why not?

- 8. Why did Gene continue jumping out of the tree and going along with Phineas even though he didn't want to?
- 9. What was blitzball?
- 10. In what way does Gene describe his memories of the war years?
- 11. What does the swimming record incident show about Phineas?

12. "Exposing a sincere emotion like that at the Devon School was the next thing to suicide." What had Phineas just told Gene?

## Reader Response Entry Chapters 1-3

In the space below, write a substantial response to the part of the book you have just read. It could be your thoughts on one of the following: an idea presented, an event, a character's actions or attitude, a topic related in some way to something presented in this section of the novel, a response to a particular passage that stood out to you as you read, or you could write a creative response like a poem or song lyrics as long as it is relevant in some way to what you have just read.