

Pre-Advanced Placement English II General Overview

English II Pre-AP is designed to prepare students for advanced placement courses at the junior and senior levels. These are specialized courses for students who demonstrate exceptional interest in the study and analysis of literature and language. Summer reading is required prior to the start of class as well as a continued study of various literary works both in class and outside of class throughout the school year. Students will be expected to complete additional preparation outside of class including, but not limited to, assigned readings, essay writings and creative projects.

Students will complete various readings and advanced compositions at a level which will prepare them for the college level work presented in the AP courses. This course requires a great deal of independent work on the part of the students. Students must be task-oriented, proficient readers who set priorities regarding time and responsibility in order to be successful in this class.

This course is based on college-level work. At times, reading material may contain mature language, content and/or themes. In addition to obtaining a copy of *A Separate Peace* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* for **summer readings**, students may want to acquire your own copies of the various literary works we will be studying in class. Although this is not a requirement, you may find it very effective for your study. Happy Reading!!

Sincerely,

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English II Pre-AP

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All incoming tenth grade students must read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (Chapter 1) and complete the assignment before returning to school in August (we will be working with *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* throughout the school year as well).

The purpose of the summer reading is to give the class something to discuss when school begins next fall. It also enables us to study a work without having to allow time at the beginning of the year for students to read the material. You are responsible for reading the book. Anyone enrolled in upper level English should not need to use Cliff Notes, SparkNotes, Enotes, Baron's, Pink Monkey, former students' papers, etc. to understand the reading. The College Board, who creates the Advanced Placement courses and tests, wants independent thinkers; it is these students that they reward with college credit, not those who need someone else to think for them.

You will need to bring your COMPLETED assignment to class the FIRST day-NO EXCEPTIONS or EXCUSES!! Also, be prepared for a test concerning the assignment sometime the first week. This test will include objective questions as well as essay prompts.

A Separate Peace: Theme Analysis

Quest Motif Paper

After reading Chapter 1 from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, "Every Trip is a Quest," use the ideas from the essay to write about *A Separate Peace*. Following the guidelines in the essay, argue that there is a quest in the book, and then argue that this quest helps support a theme.

- *Who is the questor?
- *To what place does he go?
- *What is the stated reason he goes there?
- *What challenges and trials does he encounter en route?
- *What is the real reason he goes there?

This last question is the most important. Think about the quest and the ultimate outcome of the quest. How does this quest help develop a major theme in the novel? Make sure you make it clear what theme the quest is developing. Use evidence from the novel.

INTRODUCTION: follow ANT for the intro.

- **Attention-getter:** should be general and interesting. It should draw the reader in. It should also connect thematically to the thesis. It should NOT be a question!
- **Necessary information:**

- Author's name
- Title of work
- Very brief plot summary that builds up to your thesis (Do not summarize the entire story. Summarize only information that will be needed for the rest of the paper.)
- Thesis: your thesis should make the statement that the author incorporated a quest to help develop a certain theme.

BODY PARAGRAPHS: You will most likely have 2-3 body paragraphs. Your first one or two paragraphs should establish that there is indeed a quest. Use evidence from the essay "Every Trip is a Quest" and from the novel to support your argument. The last body paragraph should make the argument that this quest supports a major theme. Use evidence from the novel that supports that this theme does exist and that the quest makes it very clear.

- Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence.
- Introduce your quotes.
 - Provide context. Who says it? Where are they said? When are they said? Are they in response to someone? Are they describing something? Pretend that your reader hasn't read the book in a very long time.
- Provide Quotes that support your topic sentence.
- Provide an analysis of how this quote supports your argument or your topic sentence.

CONCLUSION

- Restate (not rewrite) your thesis. Be creative.
- Briefly summarize your point.
- State the importance of your argument. Try to relate the argument to the broader world. EXAMPLE: Everyone experiences what Gene...
- Clincher-Round off-your last impression to the reader should relate back to the attention-getter or the title.

WRITING TIPS

- Do not use second person (YOU or YOUR). This includes imperative sentences with implied you as the subject.
- Proofread for spelling, commas, comma splices, fragments, run-ons, etc.
- Make sure all sentences flow into each other (transition).
- Use page numbers from the book. They should look like this: "I had hardly seen him all fall, and I hardly recognized him now" (85). Do not use "Pg." or "#". Just put the page number inside parenthesis and put the period after.
- Do not use first person (I, me, my).
- Do not begin body paragraphs with "first," "second," "next," etc. These are lame ways to transition. You can use, "Another example of..." but don't overuse it.

- Do not start your conclusion paragraph with “in conclusion” or “to summarize” or anything like this. I will know when it’s your conclusion.
- Paper must be typed.
- Double-spaced.
- 12-pt. Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins all around
- Heading should be on top left of the first page ONLY.