

A note to new English 10 Honors students:

This handout outlines the reading and assignments that we expect you to complete over the summer in order to be prepared for English 10 Honors at SHS. Some of the primary goals of these assignments are as follows:

- Increase your experience as a close reader of literary and visual texts, and improve your skills as an analytical writer.
- Engage in a private conversation with yourself and your peers within your scholarly community, not just about literature, but ideas, values — in short, the human experience.

Assignments are due by the deadlines listed below (late deadlines are also listed). Your teacher will give a final for *A Separate Peace* two weeks into the term and will not accept any summer reading assignments after that day.

It would be worth your while to complete the summer reading and writing assignments before school starts. If you choose not to, please understand that you will be docked points, you will miss out on the benefits of summer reading, and you will be doing a lot of homework during the first weeks of high school. You will still be expected to stay caught up on anything that we are doing for class during those two weeks.

Assignments are to be completed on your honor and without the aid or assistance of anyone or anything other than your own amazing brain. Please contact a teacher or the SHS librarian if you have any questions or concerns about the summer reading assignments.

Good luck!

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Assignment Deadlines

- By July 4th
 - ✓ Two blog posts on your reading of *A Separate Peace*
 - ✓ Two response blog posts to your peers
- By August 15th
 - ✓ Two blog posts on your reading of *A Separate Peace*
 - ✓ Two response blog posts to your peers
- By one week into first term
 - ✓ Your four blog posts and four response blog posts (**printed and ready to hand in**)
 - ✓ Book/movie argument paper (**printed and ready to hand in**)
- By two weeks into first term
 - ✓ In-class test on *A Separate Peace* (your teacher will give you more details)

**Any assignment turned in up to one week after the deadline will be docked 50% credit.
No summer reading assignment will be accepted after two weeks into the school year.**

Summer English 10 Honors Reading and Writing Assignments

1. **Read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**
 - a. Copies may either be purchased or checked out over the summer from the SHS Main Office.
 - b. Students are encouraged to purchase a personal copy of *A Separate Peace*, to be annotated (highlight the text, make notes in the margins, or use post-it notes) for reference, discussion, and assessment during first term.
2. **Complete the *A Separate Peace* blog assignments**
 - a. Click on the "SHS 10 Honors Summer Reading Blog," located under the "More" tab on the SHS Library Home Page (<http://shsneboedu.weebly.com/>)
 - b. Before completing the blogging assignments below, please review the handout labeled "**SHS Tips for Writing a Good Blog Post.**"
 - c. **Write two blog posts** that each contain at least one Socratic Question. Label each post with which type of Socratic Question you are asking.
 - d. **Write two blog posts** that explore broader issues or make a connection.
 - e. **Respond** to a minimum of **four blog posts** written by your peers.
 - f. Copy your **eight blog posts/responses** and print out a hard copy to hand into your teacher. (Lost your posts? Hit "ctrl" "F" and search for your name.)
3. **Read a book that has been made into a movie**
 - a. The book should be one that you **have not read or studied** previously, that has been made into a movie.
 - b. The movie should not be animated.
4. **Watch the movie that goes along with the book**
 - a. Again, the movie should not be animated.
5. **Compose a formal argument essay**
 - a. You have now read a book and watched a movie based on that book. Which was better, the book or the movie? Write a formal multi-paragraph argument essay that argues which is more worth your time.
 - b. You will not be graded on which side you choose to argue—choose the side that you actually agree with. If you liked both, just pick one side to argue.
 - c. Pre-writing considerations:
 - What are you glad the director kept the same in the film version and why?
 - What are you glad the director changed in the film version and why?
 - What do you wish the director would have changed in the film version and why?
 - What do you wish the director had not changed in the film version and why?
 - What is your overall opinion of the film adaptation of the book and why?
 - d. Print out a hard copy of your argument to hand into your teacher. You do not need to hand in any rough drafts or pre-writes.

SHS Tips for Writing a Good Blog Post

1. Create a descriptive, compelling headline for your post.
2. Write engaging content, using your best writing.
3. Write enough to comprehensively cover your topic and then stop – be concise, direct, and to the point.
4. Write what matters to you – be passionate.
5. It's okay to be informal – a blog is like a casual face-to-face conversation.
6. Find your own "blog voice" – word choice should be professional, respectful, warm, and accessible.
7. Edit yourself – look for redundancies, irrelevant anecdotes or anything that isn't vital or necessary.
8. Don't use tired clichés – be fresh and original.
9. Spell check before you publish your comments.
10. When appropriate, use bulleted or number lists to call attention to important points.
11. Use a combination of narrative and lists – mix it up from post to post.
12. Keep it short, but not too short!

Different types of Socratic Questions

Questions for clarification: How do you say that? How does this relate to our discussion?

Questions that probe assumptions: What could we assume instead? How can you verify or disprove that?

Question that probe reasons or evidence: What would be an example? What is ... analogous to? What do you think causes ... to happen and why?

Questions about viewpoints and perspectives: What would be an alternative? What is another way to look at it? Would you explain why it is necessary or beneficial, and who benefits? What are the strengths and weaknesses of ...? How are ... and ... similar? What is a counterargument for? How does ... tie in with what we learned before?

Questions that probe implications and consequences: What generalizations can you make? What are the consequences of that assumption? What are you implying? How does ... affect ...? How does ... tie in with what we learned before?

Questions about the question: What is the point of this question? Why do you think I asked this question? What does ... mean? How does ... apply to everyday life?

Different ways to explore broader issues or make connections:

Write about how the book relates to history, culture, philosophy, etc.

Write about how the book connects to your own life or the world around us (text-to-self, text-to-world, or text-to-text connections).