

A separate peace.
chapter analysis
essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

How does Gene describe the school when he visits it as an adult? He described it as, “ looking oddly newer than it had fifteen years before”. Saying it seemed more sedate than he remembered, more perpendicular and strait-laced, the windows seemingly more narrow and shinier woodwork, seeming as though a coat of varnish had covered everything for preservation. (Chapter 1, page 1) What is this an example of? This is an example of imagery. Why? Gene is describing the school in depth and immense detail, almost taking you to the school as you read. . Read the full description of the war and how it affected American life on pages 32-33. It is full of imagery and true description. What does Gene say about it? Gene says that war was and is a reality for him, that he still lives and thinks instinctively in the war’s atmosphere. (Chapter 3, page 32.) How does it make him feel? That the prevailing color of life in America is a dull, dark green called olive drab – always respectable and always important. (Chapter 3, page 33.) 3. Describe Finny’s character.

For example, what does his refusal to make his accomplishments public say about him? Finny is a modest person, and does not like to brag about his accomplishments. What does the teachers’ attitude toward him suggest about his personality? That his personality is open and free, and that he is not scared/intimidated by his teachers, and shows this by talking with them and treating them as if they are equal. 4. What does Finny say to Gene at the end of Chapter 3? “ I hope you’re having a pretty good time here. I know I kind of dragged you away at the point of a gun, but after all, you can’t come to the shore with just anybody and you can’t come by yourself, and at this teen-age period in life, the proper person is your best pal. Which is what you

are." (Chapter 3, page 40.) Why do you think Gene does not respond? I believe Gene did not respond due to the fact that he knew and Phineas both knew they were best friends, and that it did not need to be stated. What do you think about their relationship? I believe the two are very close, although Phineas drags Gene into things he does not wish to do, but Gene does not have the courage to tell him no.

What does Gene think of Finny? That Finny is his best friend also. (Chapter 3, page 40.) Chapters 4-6. 1. How does Gene say him and Finny are "even"? Since Finny had won (and been proud to win) the Galbraith Football Trophy and the Contact Sport Award, he says they would be even if he was head of the class on their Graduation Day, made a speech, and won the Ne Plus Ultra Scholastic Achievement Citation, then they both would have come out on top, making them "even". (Chapter 4, page 43) How does Gene think Finny is trying to sabotage him?

By deliberately setting out to wreck his studies, with relentless games of blitzball, and the incessant nightly meetings of the Super Suicide Society. (Chapter 4, page 45) Why do you think being "even" with Finny is so important to Gene? I think it is important to Gene to be "even" because he has always had a tinge of jealousy and envy for his best friend, being charismatic, athletic, friendly, etc., making him want to come out on top for once, no matter what. 2. Evaluate Finny's response to his injury and Gene's revelation: Finny's response to his injury is very nonchalant, as if he is not affected by the broken leg at all. It is seen as a bad accident by Finny, and he says that he cannot remember the details of what happened. He hints at a feeling that he had, sensing that Gene had a little something to do with his

falling from the tree, especially since Gene was the last thing Finny saw before plummeting into the river. The feeling he is having is believable because Finny – athletic pro that he is – almost always leaps off of the branch perfectly. Gene's Revelation: Gene has a revelation about himself and his best friend, Finny.

Finny does want him to succeed, and has never done anything to keep Gene behind in anything for that matter. Gene believed he was in competition with Finny to be best, but was proved wrong. Realizing this, Gene began to feel lesser because he was not man enough to admit the same. 3. Was jouncing the limb a planned, conscious decision on Gene's part or an impulsive act? I believe that Gene jouncing the limb was an impulsive act. As he stepped forward, his knees bent, causing him to jounce the limb accidentally.

Examine the dialogue and events that occurred just before the fall: Finny climbed up the old tree, Gene right behind. Just before the fall, Finny asked Gene to jump with him, side-by-side. He said, "Come out a little way, and then we'll jump side-by-side." As Gene stepped forward, the branch jounced, and Finny fell. (Chapter 4, pages 51-52.) 4. What does Gene say to Finny about sports? That he is trying to be an assistant crew manager. (Chapter 6, page 76.) What does Finny have to say about it? He asks him, "What do you want to manage a crew for?"

What do you want to manage for? What's that got to do with sports?" He then goes on to say, "Listen, pal, if I can't play sports, you're going to play them for me." (Chapter 6, pages 76-77.) Chapters 7-10 1. Gene gives a description of Leper, and then has an encounter with him before going off to

work. What is he doing in the woods? What do you think of the character Leper? How does he survive boarding school? 2. After the boys spend a long day working, they have a talk about the war on the way home. They also talk about doing their part and when they should join.

Why does Gene consider enlisting? Why does he change his mind? 3. What is Finny's view of the war? How does he explain it? 4. How does the Winter Carnival offer a "separate peace" for the boys? How does it end? 5. Describe Gene's visit with Leper and his character now: Chapters 11-13 1. Describe the "trial." How does it affect Gene? How does it affect Finny? 2. Gene is asked to take Finny's things to him the next morning and gets to talk to him. What does he say? What does he find out about Finny and the war? Do they come to some kind of peace in their friendship? How? . Gene gives a very detailed account of the events leading up to the moment Dr. Stanpole tells him about Finny. Why would Knowles write like this? What does tragedy do to your memory? 4. Why did Gene never talk about Finny? However, he says he is present at every moment. Why? 5. What is the "final" moment of school for Gene? Overall Questions 1. Gene gives an account of his war experience. He relates it to Finny and Devon. What does he say Finny was? 2. Evaluate the pros and cons of competition. How is this displayed in the novel? 3. How was war infused in the novel?