



2026 – 2027 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

9th Grade Honors English

HON ENG 1

READING REQUIREMENT

- *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

ASSIGNMENT

PART 1:

This summer, you will begin our study of classic literature by reading *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. This novel introduces important themes that we will revisit throughout the year, including the nature of good and evil, personal responsibility, and the struggle between our inner desires and moral choices. As a Christian school, we will approach this text through a biblical lens. While the novel explores the dual nature of humanity in a literary and psychological way, we will compare these ideas to what Scripture teaches about sin, human nature, and the need for redemption. This will help students think critically about the messages in the text while strengthening their understanding of a Christian worldview.

- Read the entire novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- For **each chapter**, write **TWO Post-it notes** (1–2 sentences each)
- Each note should:
 - Respond to a **significant moment, idea, or quote** from the chapter
 - Include **your personal reaction, question, or insight**
 - Be written in **complete sentences**
 - Include the **page number**
- Place each Post-it note directly on the page it refers to in your book

Guidelines for Strong Annotations:

Your notes might include:

- A reaction to something surprising or confusing
- A connection to a theme (good vs. evil, identity, choices, etc.)
- A question about a character's actions or motivations
- An observation about symbolism or imagery
- A connection to a biblical truth or moral idea

Total Notes:

There are 10 chapters in the novel, so you will complete **20 Post-it notes total**.

- Be prepared to use your notes for:
 - Class discussions
 - A short objective assessment over the novel

This assignment is meant to help you become a more active and thoughtful reader. Your annotations will also serve as a valuable resource as we begin our first unit together.

Part 2:

Your second summer reading assignment is *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. This novel explores themes like identity, friendship, jealousy, and guilt. After reading the novel, you will create a poster project to reflect your understanding of its characters, conflicts, themes, and symbolism. This creative assignment allows you to visually express your interpretation of the text and will be presented during the first week of school. Detailed instructions for the poster are on the next page.

Please plan your summer reading schedule to allow time for both assignments to be completed thoughtfully and on time. I can't wait to see your insights and creativity when school begins!

DUE DATE

Bring your (1) **annotated copy of *Jekyll and Hyde*** with all Post-it notes and (2) **progression map for *A Separate Peace*** to class on the **first day of school**.

GRADING / EXPECTATIONS

- (1) The grade for your Post It note annotations will assess both completion and quality. To earn full credit, you must complete all 20 Post-it notes (two per chapter, written in complete sentences) and place them on the correct pages with page numbers included.
- (2) Your progression map poster will be assessed according to the criteria outlined in the bullet points on the assignment page. You are an honors student, so the quality and creativity of your work should demonstrate advanced thinking and careful attention to detail. Be creative! As long as you include the information requested, and it is organized – you will be fine.

NEED HELP?

You can contact Mrs. Dick at ldick@scamail.org with questions about the assignment. Please note that due to summer travel, she may have limited access to school email during this time.

Progression Map for *A Separate Peace* Project

You will create a progression map for Gene Forrester, the protagonist of *A Separate Peace*.

This progression map will show Gene's experiences in the novel, his overall character development, his realizations, and ultimately what he comes to understand about himself. Use posterboard or foam board. Standard size is 22x28. Smallest size accepted would be half that.

- ✓ Your project will use visuals (simple pictures, symbols, drawings) as well as words.
- ✓ The map should be moving in a clear direction (think game board, or timeline-style visuals).
- ✓ Use arrows or other directional guides to show Gene's progression throughout the novel.
- ✓ The direction of Gene's progression should be evident when looking at the finished product.

As you design and create this map, you must include all of the following:

- An organized, detailed, colorful final product
- Include all the key events Gene experiences in the novel (in the order they occur) with arrows or lines coming out of these experiences to clarify their effect on him. How were they defining moments in his development? Don't forget to include the opening, when Gene looks back on his time at Devon.
- Include some indication (be creative) of the seasons on your map. The changes in the weather should correlate with the changes at Devon or within Gene.
- Include six to eight important quotations somewhere on your map that show Gene's thought process or development
- Include at least three themes that you found in the novel.
- What larger social ideas are expressed through Gene's experiences? When in the story does he realize his place in the world? Make note of these things.
- Do Gene's experiences remind you of something you've experienced? Try to incorporate one or two of these ideas in creative ways
- Use colors and shading. Use the space on your paper thoroughly, but wisely. Sketch in pencil before making any final decisions with color so as to avoid having to redo.

Make a list on a separate piece of paper to outline your ideas before doing anything.

This project will show the depth of your knowledge about the novel itself and the larger ideas that are suggested by it.