

Buist Academy Summer Reading 2021

This summer, rising 7th and 8th graders will read John Knowles's A Separate Peace, the story of two friends in a New England boarding school during World War II whose lives are changed when one makes a fatal and impulsive decision that changes both their lives. After you have read the novel, you should respond to the writing prompts below in 200-400 words each, to be submitted to Mr. Garner on a date to be announced in August.

Gene Forrester, our narrator and protagonist, has a complex relationship with his best friend Phineas ("Finny"); as Gene says, "I couldn't help envying him . . . a little, which was perfectly normal" (25). Explain what motivates Gene to make his fatal decision at the end of Chapter 4.

As the narrator, Gene often frames his motivations in two ways: his *fear* and his desire for *escape*. Referring to specific passages in the text, explain how these two forces drive, shape, and affect this character.

Gene has a difficult decision to make in the aftermath of his momentous choice in the tree above the river. What decision is it, and how does he grapple with it? How is this situation a test of Gene's *integrity*?

(Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*. Scribener, 1959.)

When we return to school in August, 7th and 8th graders will participate in class activities that will reinforce our theme of "Integrity." Plans for our Annual Buist Book Symposium will be announced in August. Parents, we encourage you to read our Symposium selection as well and to participate in our Symposium in August. Have a great summer!