**Background Information for *A Separate Peace***

**Author Information**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was born in 1926 in West Virginia.**
* **He left home at age 15 to attend Phillips Exeter Academy (an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in New Hampshire, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *A Separate Peace*).**
* **After graduating from Exeter in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he spent eight months as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cadet.**
* **Knowles then attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and graduated in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **He worked as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ writer over the next \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.**
* ***A Separate Peace* was published in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **Other popular novels include *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* and *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.**
* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* is a sequel to *A Separate Peace.***

**Author & Novel Connections**

* **When asked about how he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he said that he never wrote with any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in mind but that he was “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**
* **He started his novels with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; he let the writing carry him from there.**
* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of *A Separate Peace* were largely inspired by Knowles’s experiences at Exeter.** 
  + **Knowles was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_studying in New Hampshire during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Knowles also attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ summer sessions in 1943 and 1944.**
  + **He participated in a club whose members had to jump out of a tall tree into a river as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
  + **Although Knowles bases many of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on his own experiences, he has stated that the book’s larger \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have no factual basis.**
  + **His high school years were not plagued by the issues of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as in the novel.**
  + **Knowles chooses to locate his characters’ difficulties not in the strict \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system but within their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Historical Background**

**It’s important to understand the world situation in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

* **Japan had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the year before, resulting in declaration of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the United States against Japan and Germany (after those countries declared war).**
* **In 1942, Roosevelt and Winston Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter, an 8-point declaration of principles.**
* **In the United States, 110,000 American Japanese were moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Japan’s first major defeat, occurred in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ landed on Guadalcanal and began to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the Japanese.**
* **U.S. troops \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Italy in September of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (shortly after the end of the novel).**

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***A Separate Peace***

**Chapter 1 & 2 Vocabulary**

Tacit (9): not spoken, implied by or inferred from action.

Sedate (9): Calm.

Capacious (10): Capable of containing a large quantity; spacious or roomy.

Manses (10): A large stately residence.

Cupola (11): A vaulted roof or ceiling – domelike

Convalescence (11): Gradual return to health and strength after illness.

Specters (12): A ghostly apparition; a phantom.

Contentious (12): Given to contention; quarrelsome; controversies.

Salient (12): Prominent-protruding.

Forlorn (13): Appearing sad or lonely because deserted or abandoned.

Demotion (14): Demote- to reduce in grade, rank, or status.

Droll (14): Amusingly odd or whimsically comical (a buffoon).

Prodigious (15): Great in size, forced or extent; enormous; extraordinary; marvelous.

Inveigle (15): To win over by coaxing, flattery, or artful.

Consternation (15): A state of paralyzing dismay (fear).

Insulated (16): To cause be in a detached or isolated position.

Seigneurs (18): A man of rank – used as a form of address.

Expansive (18): Capable of expanding or tending to expand- grad in scale.

Formidable (18): Arousing fear, dread, or alarm; inspiring awe or wonder; difficult to defeat.

Genially (19): Having a friendly or pleasant disposition.

Collaborator (19): (Collaborate to work together) an associate in labor.

Ambled (20): To walk slowly or leisurely; stroll.

Commendable (23): Worthy of being praised or commended.

Emblem (24): An object or a representation that function as a symbol.

Barbaric (26): Marked by crudeness or lack of restraint in style or manner.

Inane (26): One that lacks sense or substance.

Prow (26): A projecting forward part, such as the front end of a ski.

Temperamental (27): Excessively sensitive or irritable; moody- quick to change.

Compelling (28): Urgently requiring attention/driving force.

Compliance (29): The act of complying with a wish, request, or demand; acquiescence.

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 3-4**

Abstractly (33): In an abstract state or manner; separately; absolute; by itself, as, matter abstractly considered.

Venerable (33): Commanding respect by virtue of age, dignity, character, or position.

Entrenched (33): Dug in; established firmly and securely.

Inured (34): To apply to use: to train; to discipline; to use or accustom until use gives little or no pain or inconvenience.

Fey (35): Appearing touched or crazy (as if under a spell) – having a magical quality.

Infiltrated (35): To penetrate with hostile intent- to take over.

Insidious (36): Working or spreading in a harmful manner (insidious rumors).

Transitional (42): Of or relating or characterized by transition (passage from one to another).

Resonance (43): Richness or significance (evokes a strong emotion).

Evaded (44): To avoid-to get away from.

Inebriating (45): To make drunk; to intoxicate.

Spectral (50): Of or resembling a specter (ghostly).

Solace (53): Comfort in sorrow or distress- a source of comfort.

Enmity (53): Deep-seated, often mutual hatred (enemy).

Indiscriminately (54): Not discriminate-undistinguishing –confused – in a random manner (promiscuous).

Effulgence (55): A brilliant radiance.

Denuded (56): (To mane bare) without the natural or unusual covering.

Undulation (59): A wavelike movement, form, outline, or appearance.

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 5-6**

Grandee (62): A person of eminence or high rank.

Denounce (63): To condemn openly as being evil or reprehensible (publicly criticize).

Amiably (63): In an amiable manner (friendly and agreeable).

Visionary (65): Characterized by vision or foresight; having the nature of fantasies or dreams.

Irresolutely (67): Not resolute; not decided or determined (given doubt).

Erratic (67): Having no fixed or regular course; wandering.

Nave (67): The principal area of a church (main entrance).

Sultriness (72): The state of being sultry (oppressively hot and humid weather).

Exhorted (73): Strongly urged

Idiosyncratic (74): Of peculiar temper or disposition; belonging to one’s peculiar and individual character.

Emissaries (74): An agent (agents) sent on a mission to represent or advance the interest of another.

Infinitesimal (75): Immeasurably or incalculably minute (amount or quantity).

Sinecure (77): A position or office that requires little or no work but provides a salary.

Automaton (78): A self-operating machine (robot) or mechanism (one that behaves or responds in a mechanical way).

Dispensations (81): An exemption or release from an obligation or rule granted by an authority.

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 7**

Insinuating (89): Provoking gradual doubt or suspicion; suggestive (insinuating remarks).

Fratricide (89): The killing of one’s brother or sister.

Galvanized (89): To arouse to awareness or action; spur – stimulate or shock.

Contretemps (90): An unforeseen event that disrupts the normal course of things.

Burlesque (94): A ludicrous or mocking imitation.

Futility (98): The quality of having no useful result; useless.

Tributaries (99): A stream that flows into a larger stream or body of water.

Mystification (99): The fact of being mystified or mystifying. (MYSTIFY=to confuse or puzzle mentally).

Expansive (100): Capable of expanding; broad in size or extent; comprehensive.

Naturalist (100): One versed in natural history; one who believes in and follows naturalism.

Dexterity (100): Skill in grace and physical movement; mental skill (cleverness).

Virtuoso (100): A person with masterly skill or technique in the arts: a musician with masterly ability.

Zestfully (102): With zest (spirited enjoyment, flavor, or interest).

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 8-9**

Bequest (110): The act of giving, leaving by will, or passing to another.

Opulent (110): Possessing or exhibiting great wealth; affluent.

Reticent (110): Restrained or reserved in style.

Aphorisms (113): A statement of a truth or opinion; an adage; a saying.

Telescope (120): To cause to slide inward or outward in overlapping sections-to make more compact.

Sententiousness (120): Abounding with sentences, axioms, and maxims; a sententious style of discourse.

Gullible (122): Easily deceived or duped.

Vagaries (123): An extravagant or erratic notion or action.

Liaison (126): A close relationship, connection or link – a means of communication between different groups.

Cacophony (132): Jarring; discordant sound; dissonance.

Accolade (133): An expression of approval; praise.

Choreography (136): The art of creating dances or ballets; something, such as a series of planned situations, likened to dance arrangements.

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 10-11**

Passivity (138): The condition or quality of being passive; inactivity or submissiveness.

Culminate (138): To reach the highest point or degree; to come to completion.

Holocaust (139): Great destruction resulting in the extensive loss of life.

Presaged (139): To indicate or warn of in advance; to predict.

Decipher (140): To read or interpret.

Austerity (140): Severity of manners or life; extreme rigor or strictness; harsh discipline.

Aesthete (140): One whose pursuit and admiration of beauty is regarded as excessive.

Foreboding (141): A sense of impending evil or misfortune.

Fervently (142): Hot, glowing, boiling, burning; as a fervent summer.

Furlough (142): A leave of absence or vacation.

Querulous (143): Given to complaining.

Austere (153): Sever or stern in disposition or appearance; somber and grave.

Ruefully (164): In a rueful manner. Rueful = causing, feeling, or expressing sorrow or regret.

Cohorts (165): A companion or associate (a group of people).

Balustrade (165): A rail and the row of posts that supports it, as along the front of a gallery.

Timbre (168): The combination of qualities of a sound that distinguishes it from other sounds of the same pitch or volume.

Incarnate (168): Embodied in human form; personified.

Guileful (170): Full of guile; deceitfully or treacherously cunning.

Implicate (170): To involve or connect intimately or incriminatingly (evidence that implicates others in the crime).

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**Vocabulary: Ch. 12-13**

Incongruity (179): Lack of congruence-agreement, harmony, conformity.

Pontiff (179): The pope-A bishop-A high priest.

Irreconcilably (180): {irreconcilable}, not reconcilable (disagreeing)-irreconcilable enemies.

Innate (185): Possessed at birth; inborn; inherent characteristic.

Bespoke (186): {bespeak}-present tense; To be or give a sign of; indicate-to request (bespeak a favor).

Epic (186): Heroic and impressive in quality; surpassing the usual or ordinary; a literary epic (extended narrative).

Parody (188): a. A literary work that imitates the style of an author or work for comic

effect or ridicule.

b. Something so bad as to be equivalent to intentional mocker; travesty

[The trial was a parody of justice.]

Scholasticism (195): Close adherence to the methods, traditions, and teachings of a sector school—scholarly conservatism.

Bellicose (196): Warlike in manner or temperament.

Cogitation (197): Thoughtful consideration; meditation.

Poignant (196): Physically painful; profoundly moving (poignant memory).

Regimentation (203): The imposition of order or discipline.

