

Separate Peace: Theme Analysis #2

War Motif Paper

A Separate Peace is a story about war. It is set during World War II. However, the main characters are adolescent boys who are not in the battlefields in Europe. Indeed, by the end of the novel, it seems as though most of the characters are devising ways to stay out of the war. How does John Knowles use a story of boys at school to demonstrate the evil genesis of war? How does Knowles use diction, imagery, and figurative language to keep the idea of war in his reader's mind? What greater purpose does this serve? For instance, what philosophical, or thematic, commentary is Knowles trying to get across?

Introduction: follow ANT for the introduction.

- **A**ttention-getter. The attention-getter should be general and interesting. It should draw the reader in. It should also connect thematically to the thesis.
- **N**ecessary information:
 - Author's name
 - Title of work
 - Very Brief plot summary that builds up to your thesis. (Do not summarize entire story. Summarize only information that will be needed for the rest of the paper.)
- **T**hesis:
 - Your thesis should make the statement that the author uses diction, imagery, and/or figurative language to connect the idea of war with the micro-level wars that humans engage in through interactions with others.

Body Paragraphs: You will most likely have 3 body paragraphs. The first body paragraph should concentrate on how Knowles uses diction. The second body paragraph should focus on imagery. And the third body paragraph should focus on figurative language—i.e., metaphor, similes, personification, and so on.

- Make sure each body paragraph has a **t**opic sentence. It is in the topic sentence that you should mention what literary device the paragraph is focusing on.
- Make sure that you **i**ntroduce your quotes
 - Make sure that you provide some context. Who says the words? Where are they said? When are they said? Are they in response to someone? Are they describing something? Pretend that your reader hasn't read the book in a very long time.
- Provide **q**uotes that support your topic sentence.
- Provide an **a**nalysis of how this quote supports your argument or your topic sentence.

Conclusion:

- Restate your thesis. **RESTATE**, not rewrite. Say your thesis again, but say it in a creatively different way.
- Briefly summarize your support. This should be done in 1-2 sentences.
- State the importance of your argument. Try to relate the argument to the broader world.
 - Example: Knowles presents war this way because everyone . . .
- Clincher—Round off—your last impression to the reader should relate back to the attention-getter or the title.