

Name _____

Pd. _____

A Separate Peace: Chapter 10 Reading and Study Guide

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel and in class discussion.

presage _____

furlough _____

rejoinder _____

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the novel.

flashforward _____

example: _____

journey motif: the real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge

III. QUESTIONS: answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What do we learn about Gene's war experience?
2. Where is the Christmas location?
3. What does Gene mean when he says that this night "presaged [his] war"? Why does he compare this journey to Leper's house to the traveling he does in the military?
4. What kind of discharge was Leper going to get? And what is significant about it?
5. What does Leper call Gene?
6. What does Gene do in response to being called this?
7. Gene says that Leper's mother must have thought that "[h]e's a good boy underneath," and then he says, "Leper was closer to the truth." What does Gene mean when he says that Leper was closer to the truth? What is the truth?
8. Describe what happens to Leper in the Army?
9. How does Gene react to Leper's story of his experience?

IV. Close Reading: examine the journey motif in this chapter. This is the only chapter that takes place away from Devon. In the previous chapter, Gene receives a summons to see Leper at his house. The chapter begins with the following paragraph:

That night I made for the first time the kind of journey which later became the monotonous routine of my life: traveling through an unknown countryside from one unknown settlement to another. The next year this became the dominant activity, or rather passivity, of my army career, not fighting, not marching, but this kind of nighttime ricochet[.]

Keep in mind that the purpose for a journey or a quest in literature is to find something out about oneself. After reading the chapter, what has Gene discovered about himself? What does the first paragraph imply by making it clear that Gene continues to travel through unknown places for the whole year afterwards?

Another passage to look at:

“So Journeys through unknown parts of America became my chief war memory, and I think of the first of them as this nighttime trip to Leper’s”

Does Gene discover anything about himself? If he does, what? And if he does, how does he react to it? How does this chapter and the employment of the journey motif add to anything themes of the story.