

***A Separate Peace***  
**Critical Lens Essay**  
**English 19**

**Your Task:** Write a critical essay in which you discuss *A Separate Peace* from the perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the critical lens. In your essay, provide a valid interpretation of the statement, agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and support your opinion by using specific references to and quotes from the novel.

**Critical lens:** Choose ONE of the following quotations as your critical lens.

“Everything has to evolve or else it perishes” (Leper in *A Separate Peace*, 117).

“The imagination of a boy is healthy, and the mature imagination of a man is healthy; but there is space of life between in which the soul is in ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain...” (John Keats, *Endymion*).

“What people do at their worst defines them. How they articulate their worst moments, their regret or lack of guilt... all reveals most of what you really need to know about someone” (Ted Rall).

**Guidelines:**

Provide a valid interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis.

Indicated whether you agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it.

Use *A Separate Peace* to support your interpretation.

Use the criteria suggested by the critical lens to analyze the novel.

Do not summarize the entire plot, but use specific references to events, relationships, and appropriate literary elements (for example, motifs, characterization, language, themes) to develop your analysis.

Include suitable quotations to support your claims. Cite correctly.

Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner.

Specify title and author in your introduction.

Follow the rules of grammar, punctuation, and format for a literary essay.