

A Separate Peace: Theme Analysis #1

Quest Motif Paper

After reading the essay “Every Trip is a Quest,” use the ideas from the essay to write about *A Separate Peace*. Following the guidelines in the essay, argue that there is a quest in the book, and then argue that this quest helps support a theme. Who is the quester? To what place does he go? What is the stated reason he goes there? What challenges and trials does he encounter en route? And what is the real reason he goes there? This last question is the most important. Think about the quest and the ultimate outcome of the quest. How does this quest help develop a major theme in the novel? Make sure you make it clear what theme the quest is developing. Use evidence from the novel.

Introduction: follow ANT for the introduction.

- **Attention-getter.** The attention-getter should be general and interesting. It should draw the reader in. It should also connect thematically to the thesis.
- **Necessary 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.)
- **Thesis:**
 - Your thesis should make the statement that the author incorporated a quest to help develop a certain theme.

Body Paragraphs: You will most likely have 2 – 3 body paragraphs. Your first one or two paragraphs should establish that there is indeed a quest. Use evidence from the essay “Every Trip is a Quest” and from the novel to support your argument. The last body paragraph should make the argument that this quest supports a major theme. Use evidence from the novel that supports that this theme does exist and that the quest makes it very clear.

- Make sure each body paragraph has a **topic sentence**.
- Make sure that you **introduce** 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 **quotes** that support your topic sentence.
- Provide an **analysis** 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: Everyone experiences what Gene . . .
- **Clincher**—Round off—your last impression to the reader should relate back to the attention-getter or the title.

Writing TIPS:

- Do not use second person (YOU, Your.) This includes imperative sentences with implied you as the subject.
- Proofread for spelling, commas, comma splices, run-ons, and so on.
- Make sure that all sentences flow into each other (transition). Remember our discussion of the beginning of a sentence having something old from the previous sentence, and the second part of a sentence having something new to progress the idea. It can't always be done, but you should try as often as possible.
- Make sure you use page numbers. Remember that page numbers should look like this: "I had hardly seen him all fall, and I hardly recognized him now" (85).
 - Do not use the letters, p. or pg. Just write the number. Also makes sure that the period goes on the outside of the parentheses.
- Absolutely do not use the first person (I, me, my). Do not use "I think," "In my opinion," and so on.
- DO NOT. Let me repeat, DO NOT begin body paragraphs with such words and phrases as "first," "second," "third," "to begin," "next." These are lame ways to transition. You may want to use, not overuse, "Another example of . . . is . . ."
- Along with the above, DO NOT start your conclusion paragraph with "In conclusion" or "To summarize" or any other phrase that has been overused. Just write the conclusion. I will know you are concluding if you have transitioned well.
- Paper must be typed
- 12 pt. Font Times New Roman should be used.
- 1 inch margins.
- Heading should be on top left of the first page only.
- Use your Cntrl-F worksheet and your additional lists to proofread your paper.