

Accelerated English II Summer Reading Questions

Answer the following questions ON NOTEBOOK PAPER, IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING. No answers will be accepted if they are typed. This will be turned in for a grade when we return to school in August.

A Separate Peace Questions

Chapters 1 – 3

1. What two sites did the narrator go back to see at Devon?
2. Who is Phineas?
3. What unusual thing did Phineas talk Gene into doing?
4. Why were the boys not punished for jumping out of the tree?
5. Identify Mr. Prud-homme and Mr. Patch-Withers.
6. What was the Super Suicide Society of the Summer Session?
7. Gene said, "I didn't need to feel any tremendous rush of gratitude towards Phineas." Why not?
8. Why did Gene continue jumping out of the tree and going along with Phineas even though he didn't want to?
9. What was blitzball?
10. In what way does Gene describe his memories of the war years?
11. What does the swimming record incident show about Phineas?
12. "Exposing a sincere emotion like that at the Devon School was the next thing to suicide." What had Phineas just told Gene?

Chapters 4 – 5

1. What two realizations does Gene have about his relationship with Phineas?
2. Over what did Gene and Phineas argue?
3. What happened to Phineas?
4. Why didn't Gene tell Phineas the truth (that he bounced on the limb and caused the fall) at the infirmary?
5. What is Phineas' reaction when Gene does confess?

Chapters 6 – 7

1. "If you broke the rules, then they broke you." What did Gene mean?
2. Identify Cliff Quackenbush.
3. How did Gene lose his job of Assistant Crew Manager?
4. From whom was Gene's long-distance call?
5. Why did Gene feel a sense of freedom when Phineas said, "Listen, pal, if I can't play sports, you're going to play them for me"?
6. What idea does Brinker Hadley introduce?
7. Why did Gene leave the Butt Room without smoking a cigarette?
8. What "good deed" did the boys do?
9. What does Gene say about Brinker as he tries to spare Leper's feelings when the gang meets him after the railroad work is done?
10. Who decided to enlist?
11. Why did Gene not enlist?

Chapters 8 – 9

1. Of what did Finny try to convince Gene about the war?
2. For what event did Finny want to train Gene? What was wrong with that plan?

3. Why did Phineas decide that Mr. Ludsbury didn't know the war was just propaganda from fat old men?
4. Who was the first of Gene's gang to actually enlist?
5. What effect did Leper's enlistment have on the boys at Devon?
6. What winter event did Phineas invent?
7. From whom was Gene's telegram, and what was the message?

Chapters 10 – 11

1. What happened to Leper?
2. How did Gene react to Leper's description of what happened to him?
3. Why did Gene want to see only Phineas?
4. Brinker said, "What's the matter with our class anyway? It isn't even June yet and we've already got two men sidelined for the Duration." Who was he talking about? For the duration of what?
5. How did Leper's illness affect Phineas?
6. Contrast Brinker's view of Finny's disability with Gene's view.
7. Where did Brinker take Gene and Finny? Why?
8. Why did Finny rush out of the room?
9. What happened to Finny after he ran out of the room?

Chapters 12 – 13

1. Why didn't Gene do anything to help with Phineas after his second accident?
2. Why did Gene sneak into the infirmary?
3. Gene told Phineas, "you wouldn't be any good in the war, even if nothing had happened to your leg." What did he mean?
4. What finally happened to Phineas?
5. What was ironic about Gene's part in the war?

Old Man and the Sea Questions

1. Who is Santiago? Describe him.
2. Who is Manolin?
3. Identify Martin.
4. Why is the boy not fishing with the old man anymore? Does he want to?
5. What did the other fishermen think of the old man?
6. Describe Santiago's house.
7. What's the point behind the conversation about yellow rice with fish and the cast net?
8. Why is there so much talk about baseball, specifically DiMaggio?
9. "There are many good fishermen and some great ones. But there is only you." What does the boy mean?
10. What is Hemingway's point to having the old man say, "I may not be as strong as I think . . .?"
11. What did the old man dream about?
12. How did Santiago think of the sea? (To what does he compare it?)
13. "It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes, you are ready." Explain.
14. What fish did the old man catch first?
15. "If the other heard me talking out loud, they would think that I am crazy . . . But since I am not crazy, I do not care." What does that tell us about the old man's character?
16. What happened when the old man first tried to pull in the bill fish?
17. What does the old man think of porpoises and flying fish, and the pair of marlin he had hooked before?
18. Santiago often wishes the boy were there. Why?
19. "His choice had been to stay in the deep dark water far out beyond all snares and traps. . . My choice was to go there to find him beyond all people . . . in the world." Explain the importance of this passage.
20. Why did Santiago want the fish to turn and swim with the current?

21. Explain the significance of "Take a good rest, small bird . . . Then go in and take your chances like any man or bird or fish."
22. What happened when the fish lurched?
23. What was Santiago's problem with the left hand?
24. "But, thank God, they are not as intelligent as we who kill them, although they are more noble and more able." What's Hemingway saying?
25. "He settled comfortably against the wood and took his suffering as it came . . ." is one of the many religious references in the novel. To whom is Santiago compared in this one?
26. Santiago feels he must "prove himself" to the fish and to the boy: "Now he was proving it again. Each time was a new time . . ." What is the implication in broader terms; do we EVER stop having to prove ourselves (according to Hemingway)?
27. Who was El Campeon? How did he get that name?
28. Santiago tries to justify killing the big fish by thinking of how many people he will feed. What does the old man conclude?
29. Santiago sleeps again. What does he dream of now? What woke him up?
30. How did the old man kill the big fish?
31. How did Santiago intend to take the fish back to port since the fish was bigger than the boat?
32. Santiago asks himself, ". . . is he bringing me in or am I bringing him in?" What does he conclude?
33. What problem did the old man have getting the fish home?
34. What are the old man's arguments with himself about whether or not killing the big fish is a sin? (What arguments does he make for and against it being a sin?)
35. The old man apologizes to the big fish. ("I am sorry that I went too far out. I ruined us both.") Why?
36. What of the big fish is left by the time Santiago reaches home?
37. Identify Pedrico.