***A Separate Peace* Theme Quotes**

**Jealousy:**

p. 25 “I was beginning to see that Phineas could get away with anything. I couldn’t help envying him that a little, which was perfectly normal. There was no harm in envying even your best friend a little.”

p. 27 “This time he wasn’t going to get away with it. I could feel myself becoming unexpectedly excited at that…He had gotten away with everything. I felt a sudden stab of disappointment.”

p. 40 “He had made it up, hadn’t he? It needn’t be surprising that he was sensationally good at it, and the rest of us were more or less bumblers in our different ways.”

p. 44 “Perhaps for that reason his accomplishment took root in my mind and it grew rapidly in the darkness where I was forced to find it.”

p. 52 “If I was the head of the class and won that prize, then we would be even, that was all. We would be even…”

p. 52 “I’d kill myself out of jealous envy.”

p. 53 “You did hate him for breaking that school swimming record, but so what? He hated you for getting an A in every course but one last term.”

p. 53 “Then a second realization broke as clearly and bleakly as dawn at the beach. Finny had deliberately set out to wreck my studies.”

p. 54 “We were even after all, even in enmity. The deadly rivalry was on both sides after all.”

p. 58 “He probably thought anything you were good at came without effort. He didn’t know yet that he was unique.”

p. 59 “He had never been jealous of me for a second. Now I knew that there never was and never could have been any rivalry between us. I was not of the same quality as he.”

**Denial:**

p. 28 “I felt a sudden stab of disappointment. That was because I just wanted to see some more excitement; that must have been it.”

p. 51 “Don’t be stupid. I wouldn’t waste my time on anything like that.”

p. 62 “I spent as much time as I could alone in our room trying to empty my mind of every thought.”

p. 65 “What happened, what happened? How did you fall, how could you fall off like that?” “I don’t know. I must have lost my balance. ..I just fell...something jiggled and I fell over.”

p. 66 “I couldn’t say anything to this sincere, drugged apology for having suspected the truth. He was never going to accuse me…Never accuse a friend of a rime if you only have a feeling he did it.”

p. 66 “I don’t know, I must have just lost my balance. It must have been that.”

p. 70 “’I deliberately jounced the limb so you would fall off” …”Of course you didn’t….” …”I’ll kill you if you don’t shut up.”

p. 70 “Had I really and definitely and knowingly done it to him after all?”

p. 71 “’You aren’t going to start living by the rules, are you?’ I grinned at him. “Oh no, I wouldn’t do that, and that was the most false thing, the biggest lie of all.”

p. 88 “’I’ll bet it was *all* your doing.” “Don’t be nutty, Brinker…what a crazy thing to say.”’

p. 115 ‘“Do you really think that the United States of America is in a state of war with Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan?”… Don’t be a sap…there isn’t any war…That’s what this whole war story is; A medicinal drug.”

p. 128 “Only Phineas failed to see what was so depressing. Just as there was no war in his philosophy…”

p. 169 “I lost my balance.”

p. 169 “”It’s very funny,” he said, “but ever since then I’ve had a feeling that the tree did it itself…Almost as though the tree shook me out by itself.””

p. 170 “’Someone else was in the tree, isn’t that so? No, I don’t think so.” He looked at the ceiling. “Or was there? Maybe there was somebody climbing up the rungs of the thing…Yes I remember seeing you standing at the bank…”

p. 194 “I did not cry even when I stood watching him being lowered into his family’s strait-laced burial ground outside of Boston.”

**Insecurity:**

p. 17 “Was he getting some kind of whole over me”

p. 33 “I wouldn’t have been on that damn limb except for him. I didn’t need to feel any tremendous rush of gratitude toward Phineas.”

p. 44 “Was he trying to impress me or something...perhaps for that reason his accomplishment took root in my mind and grew rapidly in the darkness where I was forced to hide it.”

p. 48 “I started to tell him then that he was my best friend also…I started to; I nearly did.”

p. 52 “But what did go on in his mind? If I was the head of the class and won that prize, than we would be even…”

p. 52 “Finny had put me up to it, to finish me for good on the exam.”

p. 53 “Chet Douglass,” I said uncertainly, “is a sure thing for it.”

p. 53 “Then a second realization broke as clearly and bleakly as the dawn at the beach. Finny had deliberately set out to wreck my studies….That way he, the great athlete, would be way ahead of me. It was all cold trickery, it was all calculated, it was all enmity.”

p. 53 “He hated you for getting an A in every course but one last term. You would have had an A in that curse except for him.”

p. 58 “It seemed that he had made some kind of parallel between my studies and his sports. He probably thought anything you were good at came without effort. He didn’t know yet that he was unique.”

p. 59 “He had never been jealous of me for a second. Now I knew that there never was and never could have been any rivalry between us. I was not of the same quality as he.”

p. 62 “trying…to forget where I was, even who I was.”

p. 62 “…stumble through the confusions of my own character…”

p. 84 “I didn’t trust my self in them.”

p. 88 “”’I’ll bet it was all your doing.’ ‘Don’t be nutty, Brinker.’ …’What a crazy thing to say.’”

p. 116 “What makes you so special? Why should you get it and all the rest of us be in the dark…he burst out.”

p. 144 “I didn’t care what I said to him now; it was myself I was worried about.”

p. 159 “The thing was to be careful and self-preserving.”

**The Creation of Inner Enemies**

p. 25 “He did wear it. No one else in the school could have done so without some risk of having it torn from his back.”

p. 25 “There was no harm in envying even your best friend a little.”

p. 28 “He had gotten away with everything. I felt a sudden stab of disappointment.”

p. 33 “Yes, he had practically saved my life. He had also practically lost it for me.”

p. 48 “I nearly did. But something held me back. Perhaps I was stopped by that level of feeling, deeper than thought, which contains the truth.”

p. 53 “It was all cold trickery, it was all calculated, it was all enmity”

p. 53 “…You and Phineas are even already. You are even in enmity. You are both coldly driving ahead for yourselves alone.”

p. 53 “Then a second realization broke as clearly and bleakly as the dawn at the beach. Finny had deliberately set out to wreck my studies….That way he, the great athlete, would be way ahead of me. It was all cold trickery, it was all calculated, it was all enmity.”

p. 55 “Sometimes I found it hard to remember his treachery.”

p. 55 “I found it hard to remember his treachery. Sometimes I discovered myself thoughtlessly slipping back into affection for him.”

p. 55 “…I tightened the discipline on myself Phineas increased his bouts of studying. I could see through that.”

p. 62 “…trying…to forget where I was, even who I was.”

p.65 “To drag me down too!”

p. 66 “And I thought we were competitors! It was so ludicrous I wanted to cry.”

p. 84 “I didn’t trust myself in them, and I didn’t trust anyone else.”

p. 89 “I had to take part in this, or risk losing control completely…I began as easily as it was possible for me to do.”

p. 127 “..the still hidden parts of myself might contain…the outcast, of the coward.”

p. 152 “With him there was no conflict except between athletes.”

p.194 “I could not escape the feeling that this was my own funeral, and maybe you do not cry in that case.”

p.204 “I never killed anybody and I never developed an intense level of hatred for the enemy. Because my war ended before I ever put on a uniform; I was on active duty all my time at school; I killed my enemy there.”

**The Threat of Codependency to Individual Identity**

p. 17 “Why did I let Funny talk me into stupid things like this? Was he getting some kind of hold over me?”

p. 24 “…he began reaching for whatever clothes were nearest, some of them mine.”

p. 34 “I was subject to the dictates of my mind, which gave me the maneuverability of a strait jacket.”

p. 52 “You wouldn’t …mind if I wound up head of the class, would you?

p. 53 “Up went affection and partnership and sticking by someone and relying on someone absolutely in the jungle of a boys’ school…”

p. 53 “His instinct for sharing everything with me? Sure, he wanted to share everything with me, especially his procession of D’s in every subject.”

p. 53 “The way I believed that you’re-my-best-friend blabber!”

p. 54 “The dead rivalry was on both sides after all.”

p. 55 “…I tightened the discipline on myself. Phineas increased his bouts of studying. I could see through that.”

p. 57 “Finny had put him up to it, to finish me for good on the exam.”

p. 59 “We’ll go together, a double jump! Neat, eh?”

p.62 “I decided to put on his clothes…the confusions of my own character again.”

p. 62 “I was Phineas. Phineas to the life. I even had his humorous expression in my face, his sharp, optimistic awareness.”

p. 79 “I hit him hard across the face. I didn’t know why for any instant; it was almost as though I were maimed.”

p. 85 “and I lost part of myself to him then, and a soaring sense of freedom revealed that this must have been my purpose from the first to become a part of Phineas.”

p. 85 “Listen, pal, if I can’t play sports, you’re going to play them for me, and I lost part of myself to him then…”

p. 103 “I can see I never should have left you alone,” Phineas went on before I could recover from the impact of finding him there. “Where did you get *those* clothes?”

p. 120 “You didn’t even know anything about yourself.’ ‘I don’t guess I did, in a way.’”

p. 121 “We’re aiming for the ’44 Olympics.”

p. 123 “…my first lapse into Finny’s vision of peace…I fell into it without realizing it into the private explanation of the world.”

p. 127 “Just Phineas and me alone among all the people of the world, training for the Olympics of 1944.”

p. 158 “I couldn’t help watching Finny as I spoke, and so I ran out of momentum. I waited for him to take it up, to unravel once again his tale of plotting statesman and deluded public…then he murmured, “Sure. There isn’t any war…”

p. 177 “And now I’m not sure, not a hundred per cent sure I’ll be completely, you know, in shape by 1944. So I’m going to coach you for them instead.”

p. 194 “I could not escape a feeling that this was my own funeral, and you do not cry in that case.”