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American Literature

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# A Separate Peace Outline

I. Introduction

A. Opening Statement - attention getter

B. Supporting Sentences

1.
2.
3.

C. Thesis statement

II. Gene is jealous of Phineas and compares himself to him.

A. Gene is envious of Phineas's physique and athletic ability

"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" (Knowles 18)

B. Gene also notices that Phineas gets away with a lot more stuff than he does

"He had gotten away with everything. I felt a sudden stab of disappointment. That was because I just wanted to see some more excitement; that must have been it."(Knowles 28)

III. The tree is a symbol of betrayal and regret.

A. The tree finny fell from is a symbol of betrayal

"I deliberately jounced the limb so you would fall off." (Knowles 70)

B. It also is a symbol of guilt and regret.

"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." (Knowles 59)

IV. The novel gives off a dark and somber feeling.

A. Betrayal is a huge reason this story is so dark. Because Gene deliberately causes Phineas's death by snapping off the limb that he was on, is a reason why this story is so dark.

B. Internal conflict is another way this story evokes a dark and somberful feeling. Because Gene struggles with internal problems about his jealousy and friendship with Phineas, this adds more of a somber feeling.

V. Conclusion