

Essay No. 2: Themes in *A Separate Peace* and *The Outsiders*

Three pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Works Cited page required (separate from the three pages)

Written in the third-person and in **MLA format**

An Outline is not required, but it's suggested, especially if you struggled on the first essay

The Rough draft is due via *shared Google Doc* **by Tuesday, Dec. 3**

The Final is due on paper *in class* **on Thursday, Dec. 12.**

Identify **three common themes** in *A Separate Peace* and *The Outsiders*, then prove those themes are accurate with your claims about the novels. Quote and summarize scenes to serve as your evidence. Citations are required, as is a Works Cited page.

Remember, **the theme of a novel represents a larger, universal truth**. The subject is the *way* in which the theme is addressed. Recall the story of the Boy Who Cried Wolf. The theme of the story is the **Consequences of Lying**, while the subject of the story is a boy who lies about a wolf coming into the sheep pasture. The moral of the story is, "Don't lie because people won't trust you." The moral and theme are related, but they are *not* the same thing.

You will have to define what the themes are, so be sure you understand what we're talking about. Refer to the notes you took on Oct. 17, if that helps. (Be in touch if you're totally lost.)

HEY! DO YOUR FUTURE SELF A FAVOR and start taking notes *while reading these books*. Start a Google Document or use an old notebook to jot down scenes (**with page numbers**) that stand out to you as thematic. If you already know some prominent themes, start looking for the evidence now. Your paper-writing process will be a breeze if you do this extra legwork early.

