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Literature Study Guide
And Student Workbook

John Knowles'
A Separate Peace

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Created for Teachers By Teachers

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STUDY GUIDE OBJECTIVES

Rationale:

The reality of today's educational world is that students need to be prepared to be successful on state standardized tests. Traditional test preparation has been to use previous tests as practice exercises. For those who relish in the teaching of writing and literature, time for standardized test preparation might be better spent with exercises linked to the literature units. In this way, the literary work is analyzed in depth, critical thinking skills are enhanced, and the students are linking the literature units with the types of tasks they will be required to perform on state tests.

Objectives:

After working through this study guide, students will be able to:

- demonstrate critical thinking skills through interpreting a literary work beyond general plot line.
- show an understanding of the writer's craft through the analysis of literary devices.
- increase vocabulary skills to enhance performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
- demonstrate thorough knowledge of the literary work through a unit test comprised of:
 - utilizing vocabulary words in sentences
 - matching vocabulary words to their definitions
 - matching character names to brief character statements/sketches
 - multiple choice questions
 - a thoughtful essay
- recognize cross curriculum connections through the writing assignments.
- demonstrate proficiency in preparing writing assignments based on state standardized tests such as:
 - **listening and writing for information and understanding:** students listen to a passage, which is linked to a major theme addressed in the novel, answer some multiple choice questions based on the listening passage, and complete a linked writing task.
 - **reading and writing for information and understanding:** students perform research on a given topic, which is linked to the novel, and find both an article and a chart/graph about that topic. They must then perform a writing task linked to their research.
 - **reading and writing for literary response:** students are given two passages that relate to a common theme (controlling idea), answer some multiple choice questions based on the passages, and write an essay explaining how both passages fit the theme, and discuss the authors' use of the writer's craft (literary devices) that help develop that theme.
 - **reading and writing for critical analysis:** students are presented with a quotation (critical lens) and the students must show how the literary work they'd just completed supports the main idea of the quotation, as well as explain how the author's use of the writer's craft help to support that main idea.