

A Separate Peace by John Knowles
Chapter Thirteen Questions

1. How does the Devon Campus change after Finny's death?
2. Why do you suppose no one accuses Gene of being responsible for what happened to Finny?
3. Gene's memories of Devon begin in what season? In what season does the story end? Why do you suppose the author chose this time frame?
4. What is Brinker's father like? Are you surprised?
5. Do you agree that "part of friendship consists in accepting a friend's shortcomings, which sometimes includes his parents" (page 192)? How can you tell that Gene considers Brinker a friend? Are you surprised that they are still friends after what happened to Finny?
6. Which branches of the military have Brinker and Gene chosen? Why?
7. Why is Brinker angry with his father? Whom does Brinker blame for the war? What does Gene think of this?
8. Why can't Gene say anything about Finn or listen to anything about him?
9. Gene muses about how Finny was different from others. In what ways?
10. What does the final passage of the story mean to you? How do most people construct "Maginot Lines" against the enemy? What do you suppose it was that made Finny so different from everyone else?