

CONTEXT

John Knowles was born in 1926 in Fairmont, West Virginia. He left home at fifteen to attend Phillips Exeter Academy, an exclusive boarding school located in New Hampshire. After graduating from Exeter in 1945, he spent eight months as an Air Force cadet before enrolling at Yale University, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in 1949.

Over the next seven years, Knowles earned his living as a journalist and free-lance writer, traveling in Europe and publishing a number of short stories. He befriended the noted playwright Thornton Wilder, a fellow Yale alumnus, who encouraged him in his vocation as a writer. In 1957, Knowles landed a job as an associate editor at *Holiday* magazine. Two years later, he published his first novel, *A Separate Peace*, to overwhelmingly favorable reviews; the commercial success of the book allowed him to devote himself to writing full-time. Since 1960, he has published eight other novels, including *Peace Breaks Out*, the companion volume to *A Separate Peace*, and a number of stories. None, however, has garnered the acclaim or audience that *A Separate Peace* has enjoyed and continues to enjoy today. Knowles has served as a writer-in-residence at Princeton University and at the University of North Carolina, and he continues to lecture widely.

The plot and setting of *A Separate Peace* were largely inspired by Knowles's experiences at Exeter. Like Gene Forrester, one of the novel's two principal characters, Knowles was a student from the South studying in New Hampshire during

来龙·去脉

约翰·诺勒斯于 1926 年出生于西弗吉尼亚的费尔蒙特。15 岁时，他离开家进入新罕布什尔州一家贵族寄宿学校，菲利普斯·埃克塞特中等学校学习。1945 年从埃克塞特毕业后，成为空军军校学员。8 个月后，又进入耶鲁大学学习，并于 1949 年在耶鲁大学取得学士学位。

在接下来的 7 年中，他曾做过新闻记者和自由撰稿人，游览了欧洲各国，发表了很多短篇小说。他曾结交著名的剧作家桑顿·怀尔德（此人是约翰在耶鲁的校友），桑顿·怀尔德鼓励他当职业作家。1957 年，诺勒斯到《假日》杂志做副主编。两年后，他出版了自己的第一部小说《一个人的和平》，这本书大获好评，而它所带来的商业利润也让诺勒斯得以全身心地投入专职写作生涯。自 1960 年以来，他又出版了 8 部小说，其中包括《一个人的和平》的姊妹篇《失落的和平》和其他几部作品，然而没有一部作品能像《一个人的和平》那样过去和现在都倍受推崇并且赢得了那么多的读者。诺勒斯曾在普林斯顿大学和北卡罗来纳大学任住校作家，并继续到各处讲学。

《一个人的和平》中描述的许多故事情节和背景都是以诺勒斯在埃克塞特的生活经历为原型的。正像小说的两个主要人物之一吉尼·福里斯特一样，二战期间，诺勒斯从南方来到新罕布什尔州上学，只是他

World War II—although he graduated a year too late to serve overseas during the war. Like his characters, Knowles also attended two summer sessions in 1943 and 1944, and even participated in a club whose members had to jump out of a tall tree into a river as an initiation stunt—a club much like the “Super Suicide Society of the Summer Session” founded by Gene and his friend Finny in *A Separate Peace*. He has told interviewers that he modeled the character of Finny after another member of this club named David Hackett, who later served under Robert F. Kennedy* in the Department of Justice.

Yet while Knowles bases many of the book’s circumstances on his own experiences at Exeter, he has always emphatically noted that the book’s larger themes have no factual basis—that his own high school years were not plagued by the issues of envy, violence, and alienation that pervade the novel. He has written that he thoroughly enjoyed his time at the school and adds that he sought to convey his love and appreciation for it in *A Separate Peace*. Indeed, his treatment of “Devon*” in the novel would seem to bear these statements out: despite its dark tone and perhaps pessimistic view of the human condition, the novel offers an ultimately positive and even nostalgic perspective of boarding-school life. Unlike other, more recent accounts of exclusive boarding-school culture, which have tended to portray the educational system itself as an oppressive force (in such films as *Dead Poet’s Society** and *Scent of a Woman**), Knowles chooses to locate his characters’ difficulties not in the strict boarding-school system but within their own hearts. 🌿

毕业时，战争已经结束了一年之久，因此他没能到海外参战。和小说的主人公类似的是，诺勒斯曾在1943和1944年两次在夏季学期上课，并且他也参加了一个俱乐部。要想成为这个俱乐部的成员，必须先进行入会绝活儿表演——从高高的大树上跳进小河里。这个俱乐部与小说中吉尼和他的朋友芬尼创建的“超级夏季学期自杀协会”十分相似。诺勒斯告诉采访者，他塑造的小说人物芬尼的原型就是他所在俱乐部中一个名叫大卫·哈凯特的成员，此人后来在罗伯特·F·肯尼迪政府的司法部就职。

虽然诺勒斯小说中的很多情景都是以他在埃克塞特的亲身经历为基础，但他总是强调指出，这部小说更深层的主题是没有事实根基的——他自己的学校生活并没不像小说中那样，受到妒嫉、暴力和异化的困扰。他曾写到，他在学校过得非常愉快，还补充说，他也尝试把自己对学校生活的喜爱写进《一个人的和平》中。事实上作者对小说中德文中学生活部分的处理似乎与他说的暗合：虽然小说基调阴郁，甚至对人类处境有些悲观，但对寄宿学校生活的描述却体现了作者极度乐观的态度，饱含了怀旧情绪，而后来其他作品对此类生活的描写，更多刻画的是沉闷的教育制度本身如电影《死亡诗社》和《闻香识女人》。与之不同的是，诺勒斯没有把小说中的人物的困境定位在寄宿学校严格的制度上，而是定位于人物的内心世界。🌿

PLOT OVERVIEW

Gene Forrester is a quiet, intellectual student at Devon School in New Hampshire. During the summer session of 1942, he becomes close friends with his daredevil roommate Finny, whose innate charisma consistently allows him to get away with mischief. Finny prods Gene into making a dangerous jump out of a tree into a river, and the two start a secret society based on this ritual. Gene gradually begins to envy Finny's astonishing athletic abilities, manifested in Finny's breaking a school swimming record on his first try. He thinks that Finny, in turn, envies his superior academic achievements, and he suspects that his friend has been taking steps to distract him from his studies. Gene's suspicions transform into resentful hatred, but he nevertheless carefully maintains an appearance of friendship.

Gene realizes that he has been grievously mistaken about the existence of any rivalry between them when, one day, Finny expresses a sincere desire to see Gene succeed. While still in a state of shock from the force of his realization, he accompanies Finny to the tree for their jumping ritual. When Finny reaches the edge of the branch, Gene's knees bend, shaking the branch and causing Finny to fall to the bank and shatter his leg. The tragedy is generally considered an accident, and no one thinks to blame Gene—especially not Finny. But when the doctor tells Gene that Finny's athletic days are over, Gene feels a piercing sense of guilt. He goes to see Finny and begins to admit his part in Finny's fall, but the doctor interrupts him, and Finny is sent home before Gene gets another chance to

情节·览

吉尼·福里斯特既温和又聪明，是新罕布什尔州德文中学的学生。1942年夏季学期里，他和胆大妄为的室友芬尼成了好朋友。芬尼天生魅力超凡，爱搞恶作剧，可是凭着自己的聪明才智，他总能顺利逃脱责罚。一次在芬尼的怂恿下，吉尼冒险从大树上腾空跳入河中，两人从此成立了以此为入会仪式的秘密团体。但是吉尼渐渐开始妒嫉芬尼惊人的体育天赋：这从他一举打破学校游泳纪录中可见一斑。同时吉尼认为，芬尼也在妒嫉自己优秀的学习成绩，他还怀疑他的朋友一直在采取行动，分散他在学习上的注意力。吉尼的猜疑变成了憎恨，然而他仍小心维持着表面的友好。

一天，芬尼告诉吉尼，他希望吉尼能够成功，吉尼这才意识到他们之间存在的敌对都是自己在胡乱猜疑。这种意识强烈地震撼了他。此时，仍处在震惊中的吉尼陪芬尼来到树下举行他们的“跳跃入会仪式”。当芬尼走到树枝尖端时，吉尼双膝突然弯曲，树枝跟着晃动起来，芬尼跌落到河岸上摔折了腿。大家都认为这场悲剧是个意外，没人想到怪罪吉尼，尤其是芬尼。但是当医生告诉吉尼，芬尼的运动生涯就此结束时，强烈的负罪感刺痛了吉尼。他去看望芬尼，试图承认在芬尼摔伤事件中自己所负的责任，但是医生打断了他。芬尼被送回了家，在此之前吉尼再也没有找到机会坦白一切。

confess.

The summer session ends, and Gene goes home to the South for a brief vacation. On his way back to school, he stops by Finny's house and explains to his friend that he shook the branch on purpose. Finny refuses to listen to him, and Gene rescinds his confession and continues on to school. There, Gene attempts to avoid true athletic activity by becoming assistant manager of the crew team, but he feuds with the crew manager and quits. World War II* is in full swing and the boys at Devon are all eager to enlist in the military. Brinker Hadley, a prominent class politician, suggests to Gene that they enlist together, and Gene agrees. That night, however, he finds Finny has returned to school. He consequently abandons his plans to enlist, as does Brinker. Finny expects Gene to take his place as the school's sports star now that he is injured. When Gene protests that sports no longer seem important in the midst of the war, Finny declares that the war is nothing but a conspiracy to keep young men from eclipsing the older authorities.

Finny tells Gene that he once had aspirations to go to the Olympics, and Gene agrees to train for the 1944 Olympics* in his place. All the boys are surprised when a gentle, nature-loving boy named Leper Lepellier becomes the first one in their class to enlist. Gene and Finny go on training, shielded within their private vision of world events. During a winter carnival, which Finny has organized, a telegram arrives for Gene from Leper, saying that he has "escaped" and desperately needs Gene to come to his home in Vermont. Gene goes to Vermont and finds that Leper has gone slightly mad. Leper, who was present at Finny's accident, reveals that he knows the truth about what happened. Leper's ranting frightens Gene and makes him anx-

夏季学期结束后，吉尼回到南方，在家度过了短暂的假期。在回校途中，他去了芬尼家，跟他解释自己故意摇晃树枝的事。芬尼拒绝接受这个事实，吉尼只好作罢，继续上路，回了学校。在学校里，吉尼为了不参加真正的体育活动，当起了童子军副队长，但是他与队长结了仇，干脆不干了。此时二战进入白热化，德文的男孩子们都跃跃欲试，想要参军。杰出的班级政治家布林克尔·哈德利建议吉尼和他一起参军，吉尼同意了。然而那天晚上，吉尼发现芬尼已回到学校，最终放弃了参军的计划，布林克尔于是也放弃了。因为自己的腿受伤，芬尼希望吉尼能代替自己成为学校的体育明星。当吉尼反驳说战争时期体育运动已变得不再重要时，芬尼声言战争只不过是一些老政客磨灭年轻人锐气的阴谋罢了。

芬尼告诉吉尼，他曾经渴望参加奥运会。于是吉尼答应进行训练，代替芬尼参加1944年的奥运会。莱佩尔·莱佩利捷是个文雅又热爱自然的男孩，他在班里第一个报名参了军，大家都对他参军感到很惊讶。吉尼和芬尼继续进行训练，两人沉浸在对自我的自我幻想之中。在芬尼组织的冬季狂欢节上，吉尼收到了莱佩尔发来的电报。莱佩尔在电报中说自己“逃跑”了，并且急切需要吉尼到佛蒙特他家去。吉尼来到佛蒙特，发现莱佩尔已经有点精神失常了。芬尼摔伤时，莱佩尔也在现场。此时，莱佩尔透露说他知道事情的真相，这些狂言乱语吓坏了吉尼，使他不由对军营的

ious about how he himself might react to military life. He runs away back to Devon. When Brinker hears of what has happened to Leper, he laments in front of Finny that Devon has already lost two of its potential soldiers—Leper and the crippled Finny. Gene, afraid that Finny will be hurt by this remark, tries to raise his spirits by getting him to discuss his conspiracy theory again, but Finny now denies the war only ironically.

Brinker, who has harbored suspicions that Gene might have been partly responsible for Finny's accident, wants to prove or disprove them definitively. He organizes an after-hours tribunal of schoolboys and has Gene and Finny summoned without warning. The boys on the makeshift tribunal question the two about the circumstances surrounding the fall. Finny's perceptions of the incident remain so blurred that he cannot speak conclusively on the matter; Gene maintains that he doesn't remember the details of it. The boys now bring in Leper, who was sighted earlier in the day skulking about the bushes, and Leper begins to implicate Gene. Finny declares that he does not care about the facts and rushes out of the room. Hurrying on the stairs, he falls and breaks his leg again.

Gene sneaks over to the school's infirmary that night to see Finny, who angrily sends him away. Gene wanders the campus until he falls asleep under the football stadium. The next morning, he goes to see Finny again, takes full blame for the tragedy, apologizes, and tries to explain that his action did not arise from hatred. Finny accepts these statements and the two are reconciled. Later, as the doctor is operating on Finny's leg, some marrow detaches from the bone and enters Finny's bloodstream, going directly to his heart and killing him. Gene receives the news with relative tranquility; he feels that he has

生活忧心忡忡，他逃回了德文。布林克尔听说了莱佩尔的遭遇，当着芬尼的面，他悲叹德文中学已经损失了两个可能参军的人——莱佩尔和瘸腿的芬尼。吉尼害怕这些话伤到芬尼，于是就和芬尼谈起他的战争阴谋理论，想以此让芬尼振奋精神，然而此时芬尼只是讥讽说战争并不存在。

布林克尔一直怀疑吉尼可能对芬尼的意外负有部分责任，并且想进一步证实是或不是。他组织学校里的男孩们成立了事后审判席，吉尼和芬尼被召来于此，并且毫无戒备。临时审判席的男孩们审问二人跌伤事件发生时的情形，芬尼对这个意外的记忆很模糊，他甚至都说不清事情是怎么发生的，吉尼坚持说自己也记不清细节了。此时男孩们带来了莱佩尔，他们在那天早些时候曾看到莱佩尔偷偷摸摸地躲在灌木丛中。莱佩尔开始暗示是吉尼制造了惨案。芬尼宣称自己对事实并不关心，并且冲出了房间。急匆匆地跑下楼梯时，他又一次跌倒，摔折了腿。

那天晚上吉尼到医院去看芬尼，被芬尼怒冲冲地赶了出来。吉尼在校园里徘徊，最后在足球场睡着了。转天他又去看望芬尼，坦言自己对这场悲剧应承担全部责任。他向芬尼道歉，并且解释说自己的行为并非出于忌恨。芬尼接受了吉尼的坦诚相告，两人和解了。后来医生给芬尼的腿做手术时，一些骨髓从骨头进入到芬尼的血液里，并且随血液直接循环到心脏，导致了芬尼的死亡。吉尼知道这个噩耗时似乎比较平静，他觉得自己已经变成了芬尼的一部分，而且

become a part of Finny and will always be with him. The rest of the boys graduate and go off to enlist in relatively safe branches of the military. Gene reflects on the constant enmity and hate that plagues the human heart—a curse from which he believes that only Finny was immune. 🌿

会一直和芬尼在一起。其他的男孩子毕业后，参军加入了相对比较安全的部队。吉尼觉得仇恨就像是一种诅咒，不断地折磨人们的心灵，他相信只有芬尼能不受仇恨的影响。✿

Gene Forrester

The narrator and protagonist of the novel. When *A Separate Peace* begins, Gene is in his early thirties, visiting the Devon School for the first time in years. He is thoughtful and intelligent, with a competitive nature and a tendency to brood. He develops a love-hate relationship with his best friend, Finny, whom he alternately adores and envies. He often seems to want to lose hold of his own identity and live as a part of Finny, a tendency suggesting that he is strongly uncomfortable with his own personality. Yet the reader must infer this aspect of Gene, like much of his character, from the actions that he recounts rather than from any explicit statements regarding his mindset: Gene often proves a reticent and unreliable narrator when it comes to his own emotions.

Finny

Gene's classmate and best friend. Finny is honest, handsome, self-confident, disarming, extremely likable, and the best athlete in the school; in short, he seems perfect in almost every way. He has a talent for engaging others with his spontaneity and sheer joy of living, and, while he frequently gets into trouble, he has the ability to talk his way out of almost any predicament. According to Gene, he is rare among human beings in that he never perceives anyone as an enemy, and never strives to defeat others. Finny's behaviors also suggest that he relishes pure achievement rather than competition. His fatal flaw is that he assumes that everyone is like him—that everyone

角色·亮相

吉尼·福里斯特

小说的叙述者和主人公。在《一个人的和平》的故事起始，吉尼 30 岁出头，多年来第一次探望德文中学。他富于思想，聪颖睿智，耽于竞争，又容易郁郁寡欢。他对他最好的朋友芬尼时而崇拜时而妒嫉，这段友谊对他来说爱恨交织。他似乎总想放弃自我身份而作为芬尼的一部分存在。这种倾向表明，他对自己的个性非常不满意。读者在理解吉尼的这种思想倾向时，应该从他的所作所为中去把握，而不能只凭他对自己想法的简单叙述，理解他的其他性格也应如此，因为事实证明，吉尼在叙述自己的情感时总是吞吞吐吐，有所保留，让人难以相信。

芬尼

吉尼的同窗挚友。芬尼诚实、英俊、自信、极具亲和力和力，又是学校里的体育种子选手，一句话，他几近完美。他天生是个乐天派，也很有把自己的喜悦感染给其他人的天赋。当他一次又一次遇到麻烦时，总是能靠伶牙俐齿走出困境。用吉尼的话说，他是那种少有的不把任何人当敌人，也不处心积虑去打败别人的人。芬尼的做法也表明，他喜欢的只是单纯的运动，而不是和别人竞争。他致命的缺点就是认为大家和他一样，每个人都充满热情、本性善良。

shares his enthusiastic and good-natured spirit.

Leper Lepellier

A classmate of Gene and Finny. Leper is a mild, gentle boy from Vermont who adores nature and engages in peaceful, outdoor-oriented hobbies, like cross-country skiing. He is not popular at Devon but seems to pay no attention to such things; only later does the text hint at his desire to be closer to Gene and his jealousy of Finny's position as Gene's best friend. He is the first boy from Gene's class to enlist in the army, but military life proves too much for him, and he suffers hallucinations and a breakdown.

Brinker Hadley

A charismatic class politician with an inclination for orderliness and organization. Brinker is very straight-laced and conservative. He has complete confidence in his own abilities and has a tendency to carry his ideas through with startling efficiency—at times even ruthlessness. Manifesting a mindset opposite to that of Finny, who delights in innocent anarchy, Brinker believes in justice and order and goes to great lengths to discover the truth when he feels that it is being hidden from him.

Cliff Quackenbush

The manager of the crew team. Quackenbush briefly assumes a position of power over Gene when Gene volunteers to be assistant crew manager. The boys at Devon have never liked Quackenbush; thus, he frequently takes out his frustrations on anyone whom he considers his inferior.

莱佩尔·莱佩利捷

吉尼和芬尼的同班同学。莱佩尔来自佛蒙特，是个温文而雅的男孩，他热爱大自然，喜欢平静的户外运动，例如越野滑雪。他不是德文的热点人物，对此也毫不在意，只是后来文中点出他想亲近吉尼，并且嫉妒芬尼能做吉尼的知心朋友。他是吉尼班里第一个参军的男孩，然而事实证明，他不堪忍受军营生活，患了妄想症，精神崩溃了。

布林克尔·哈德利

能干的班级政治家，讲组织，讲纪律，教条主义，又很保守。他对自己的能力很自信，一旦有了什么点子就会落实，为了实现自己的想法，有时甚至近似无情。布林克尔与芬尼的思想截然不同，后者推崇自然无政府主义；前者追求正义和秩序，一旦他觉得真相被掩盖，就会不遗余力探根寻底。

克利夫·夸肯布什

童子军的队长。吉尼自告奋勇做童子军的副队长时，夸肯布什是他的头儿，权利比他大。德文的男孩们从来都不喜欢夸肯布什，所以他就常把自己的挫败发泄在那些他认为不如他的人身上。

Chet Douglass

Gene's main rival for the position of class valedictorian. Chet is an excellent tennis and trumpet player and possesses a sincere love of learning.

Mr. Ludsbury

The master in charge of Gene's dormitory. A stern disciplinarian, Mr. Ludsbury thrives on the unquestioning obedience of schoolboys and works hard to restore order after the anarchic summer session.

Dr. Stanpole

Devon's resident doctor. Dr. Stanpole operates on Finny after both of Finny's accidents. He is a caring man who laments the troubles that afflict the youth of Gene's Generation.

Mr. Patch-Withers

The substitute headmaster of Devon during the summer session. Mr. Patch-Withers runs the school with a lenient hand.

