

ABSTRACT

The topic of this thesis is competition in the novel A separate Peace which, according to its writer, John Knowles, constitutes one of the forces in human beings that helps a person to become mature. This main topic is then related to a teacher's profession at the end of this thesis.

This thesis is an attempt to discuss, analyze and reveal the competition in the novel. It tries to figure out the types of the competition, to identify where and when the competition happens and to look into the effects of the competition. It also wants to show that there might be some advantages that can be gained from the experiences in the novel in relation to a teacher's profession.

This thesis employs a desk research or library study in collecting useful data on the topic. Further, to analyze the novel itself, there are three main methods used: comparison, analysis, and cause and effect.

Having analyzed the novel, I discover that the competition in the novel is rather unusual and has many effects, positive and negative, psychological and physical. Its peculiarity is characterized by its special types called subtle, one sided and between-best-friends' competition. At the end of the thesis, I describe what teachers should know if they deal with competitions among their students.