

R.A.C.E. Strategy for Writing Constructed Responses
Animal Farm

Model (from *A Separate Peace*)

Prompt/Question: How does a night spent on the beach solidify the friendship between Gene and Finny?

Restate (Reword): During their night on the beach, Finny solidifies his friendship with Gene...

Answer (the question): ...when he admits aloud that Gene is his best friend.

Cite (evidence): At the end of Chapter 3, after a day of fun on the beach, Finny says, "...you can't come to the shore with just anybody and you can't come by yourself, and at this teenage period in life the proper person is your best pal...which is what you are." Gene then notes Finny's courage: "Exposing a sincere emotion nakedly like that at Devon School was the next thing to suicide."

Explain (Elaborate/Reasoning): Teenage boys are not traditionally open with their emotions, and those who are may be victimized by their classmates. Their friendships tend to show in teasing, roughhousing, and competition, which there is plenty of in this novel, but Finny's simple admission is both brave and profound. He is not only going against an accepted standard of teenage male behavior, but he is opening himself up to Gene, a narrator whose suspicious and competitive nature will not allow him to respond in kind. At this point, the reader realizes Gene has misinterpreted Finny's nature, seeming to believe that his openness and charm are mere deceptions. In truth, Finny considers Gene his best friend and has no ill will toward him.

Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: While Gene is unable to return Finny's openness and courage, it is clear after the scene on the beach that Finny's friendship is genuine.

Your Turn (*Animal Farm*, Chapters 3 & 4)

Using the RACE strategy, write a constructed response to **two (2)** of these questions:

- "Donkeys live a long time." What does Benjamin's "cryptic remark" mean?
- Besides physical strength, what personal qualities make Boxer such a valuable asset to Animal Farm?
- Why is Napoleon only interested in educating the young?
- Why don't the other animals complain that the pigs get all the extra milk and apples?
- Why do neighboring farm owners outlaw the song "Beasts of England"?

#1

R(estate): _____

A(nswer): _____

C(ite): _____

E(xplain): _____

Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: _____

#2
R(estate): _____

A(nswer): _____

C(ite): _____

E(xplain): _____

Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: _____
