

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade English (CP and Honors) Dialectical Journal Assignment

Your summer reading journal is a written conversation with yourself about a piece of literature that encourages the habit of literary reflection and analysis. You will use a double-entry format to examine details of a passage and illustrate your understanding of the text. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a test grade

In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating. **These journals are due the first full day of school, Monday, August 12, 2019.**

### **Instructions:**

1. Create a computerized response journal (see example)
2. Write the number of pages in your novel here\_\_\_\_\_. (Round up or down to the tenth's place.)
3. Divide your novel into eight (8) equal sections and write a response for every section. (E.g.: 253 pages ...  $400/8= 50$ . This example shows you should write a response every 50 pages.)
4. Draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
5. Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE
6. In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have EIGHT.
7. How do you choose what passages to write down? Passages become important if they cause you to react, connect, predict, or reflect. Passage are also important when they cause you to identify characterization, theme, mood, or literary device.
8. In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**
9. Label your response with one of the letters below (RE, CO, P, RF, CH, T, M, LD). You may use responses a-g ONCE; you may use literary devices (see list on other page) more than once.
  - a. (Reaction) RE= Describe what the passage makes you think or how it makes you feel and why.
  - b. (Connection) CO= Make connections to other places in the novel or to your life, or to the world, or another story that you have read.
  - c. (Prediction) P= Anticipate what will occur based on what is in the passage.
  - d. (Reflect) RF= Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just about the way things are?
  - e. (Characterization ) CH= Analyze details or dialogue uses to show you aspects of the identities of the characters.
  - f. (Theme) T= Determine the passage contributes to the author's overall message or messages about some aspect or aspects of life.
  - g. (Mood) M= Determine the way the passage establishes the mood or tone of a scene and explain how that might be important.
  - h. (Literary Device) LD= Analyze the author's writing using literary terms (see list of possibilities below)
10. Each RESPONSE **must be at least 50 words** (include word count at the end of each response. First person writing (using the pronoun "I") is acceptable in the RESPONSE column

**IMPORTANT: It is important to always explain why you think something or like something or don't understand something.**

Sample Journal Entry

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>“The puddle had frozen over, and me and Cathy went stompin in it. The twins from next door, Tyrone and Terry, were swingin so high out of sight we forgot we were waitin our turn on the tire. Cathy jumped up and came down hard on her heels and started tap dancin. And the frozen patch splinterin every which way underneath kinda spooky. ‘Looks like a plastic spider web,’ she said. ‘A sort of weird spider, I guess, with many mental problems’” (35).</p> <p>NOTE the quotation marks, punctuation, and MLA format</p>	<p>(LD-dialect) In this first paragraph of the story, Bambara indirectly characterizes the narrator by using rural Southern dialect to let us know that the story is set in the South. The narrator’s use of improper grammar lets us know she is not highly educated. We also learn from the activities the author describes that the characters are children. (57 words)</p> <p>NOTE word count; NOTE labeling of response type</p>

**Literary Devices you can use for responses**

Alliteration	Dialect	Plot: exposition, climax, resolution
Fiction	Flashback	Point of view (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , limited, omniscient)
Allusion	Foreshadowing	Protagonist
Antagonist	Hyperbole	Repetition
Autobiography	Imagery	Setting
Biography	Irony	Simile
Characterization	Metaphor	Suspense
-static, flat, etc	Mood	Symbol
-direct, indirect	Personification	
Conflict		

**Review of Requirements:**

On the cover of your response:

\_\_\_ Write your name; title of book and author; page count for entire book

TEXT side of journal:

\_\_\_ You have eight excerpts from eight evenly spaced sections of the novel

\_\_\_ You have quoted and used quotation marks (watch placement of marks)

\_\_\_ Your citation has a page number and is according to MLA standards (see example)

RESPONSE side of journal:

\_\_\_ You have eight responses

\_\_\_ You have a variety of responses; they are labeled (RE, CO, P, RF, CH, T, M, LD).

\_\_\_ Each response has word count; each must be at least 50 words.