

Book Talks

English I

In every English class, reading is extremely important. In addition to books we read as a class, you are also responsible for independent reading throughout the course of the year. Instead of doing literature circles, book reports, or posters, you will read one book independently per quarter and have an informal “book talk” with Mr. Turtola.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Choose a book from [the list provided](#) or any approved title.
 - The book must be something you have not read before. Please be honest.
 - You can check your book out from the Foran library, Milford Public library, or purchase your own copy.
 - You may also use a digital copy or e-reader (Nook, Kindle, etc.)
 - Pick something that interests you. If you read a book you liked, see what else the author has written. You can also lookup the titles of books in specific genres you enjoy.
2. Bring your copy to class to read it during the block day.
3. Read the book at your own pace (but you must be finished by the due date).
 - You will be given time in class on block days to read your independent reading book. Make sure you bring it with you on E/F days! It will count as a participation grade.
4. Complete your dialectical journals. I suggest completing them as you read your book.
5. When you finish your book and journals, attend your book talk/send your video with/to Mr. Turtola!
6. Show up to your scheduled book talk and be ready to discuss the characters, plot, symbols, conflicts, themes, and other specific, detailed questions. Show me that you read the book!
7. You may make an instructional video about the book in lieu of a book talk. See Mr. Turtola for details.

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

A dialectical journal keeps records of your observations and reactions while you read a book. It is highly self-reflexive, as you monitor, record, and assess your own impressions, observations, judgments, and conclusions. While reading your independent reading books, you are required to keep a dialectical journal. As you read, choose passages that are meaningful to you or important to the story as a whole.

Your journal should have **at least 6 entries** that cover various stages of the book and should each be **a minimum of 150 words**. Your journal must be typed and submitted on [TurnItIn.com](#) before your book talk for each quarter. The journal for each quarter will be focused on a specific literary element. I will go into more detail at the start of each quarter as to what you should be looking for pertaining to that element. _____

1st quarter: Character Development(Changes)
2nd quarter: Theme

3rd quarter: Tone and Mood
4th quarter: Symbolism- discuss an object.

GRADING

Your book talk will count for one test grade per quarter (40 points)

- Dialectical Journal: 20 points
- Book Talk/Instructional Video: 20 points

If you complete your book talk past the due date, late points will be deducted (10% per day).

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Your dialectical journal **must be submitted on [TurnItIn.com](#) prior to your book talk.**
- ❖ Bring your book to the book talk. No book = no book talk.
- ❖ You will be required to read one book per quarter and complete a book talk for each (4 total)

- ❖ Practice good time management and pace yourself so you don't have to rush through reading. If you delay and wait until the deadline, you will likely forget details and fail your book talk with me.

DUE DATES*

Your book talk and dialectical journals must be submitted by these due dates. You **SHOULD NOT** wait until the last minute.

1st quarter: Journal due on October 16 Book talk video on Oct.21

2nd quarter: Journal due on Dec. 12. Book talk video on Dec. 20.

3rd quarter: Journal due on March 20. Book talk video on March 27.

4th quarter:

*These are tentative to change depending on snow days

Sample Journal Entries

Strong example

"Quote from text" (Page)	Response
"I split my knuckle to the bone on his front teeth. My left impaired, I sailed in with my right" (15)	<p>This quote demonstrates many of Scout's personality traits, such as her toughness, immaturity, and her loyalty to her family. Scout is shown throughout the book as being a headstrong character. In fact, this is the second time the audience has seen Scout get into a fight with a boy. Her fearlessness to fight a boy shows how tough she is, especially for the time period. Scout is a "tomboy" and she doesn't care that he is a boy and she is a girl; all she is concerned with is beating him up.</p> <p>Scout is not just fighting the boy; she is pummeling him. This is evidenced by the diction in the sentence, such as "split my knuckle to the bone on his front teeth." This again shows how tough she is because she is clearly winning in the fight. By engaging in violence, Scout is showing how young she is. Scout did not even hesitate to throw a punch once he offended her, which shows her immaturity. Mature people are able to solve disagreements with their words or simply by walking away.</p> <p>In this quote, it is also clear how fiercely loyal Scout is to her family, especially her father. The reason she is fighting is that the boy offended Atticus by calling him a derogatory name. Again, this is the second time she has gotten into a fight because of someone criticizing her family. Scout does not back down from a fight, especially when someone attacks the family she loves so much.</p>

Weak example

"Quote from text" (Page)	Response
"I split my knuckle to the bone on his front teeth. My left impaired, I sailed in with my right" (38)	<p>In this quote, Scout is fighting her cousin. This shows how strong she is. She is also very tough because she is willing to fight a boy. Also, she is beating him in the fight so she is a good fighter. Scout also cares a lot about her family because that is what the fight is about in the first place.</p> <p><i>This entry does not appear to have any thought behind it, just a hasty response to complete the task. There is no elaboration behind the analysis of the quote, which is why it doesn't meet the length requirement. The answers are not well-written, nor do they use strong vocabulary.</i></p>

Book Talks - Pacing Guide**October 2019- January 2020**

M	T	W	TH	F
Oct. 28- E Begin reading a book and start a journal.	29- F	30- A	31- B	November 1- C
4- D	5- Election Day	6- E	7- F	8- A
11- B	12- C	13- D	14- E Journal Check #1	15- F
18- A	19- B	20- C	21- D	22- E
25- F	26- A	27- B	28- Thanksgiving	29- No school
December 2- C	3- D	4- E Journal Check #2	5- F	6- A
9 B Book Complete	10 C	11- D	12- E Journals Submitted on TurnItIn	13- F
16- A	17- B	18- C	19- D	20- E Book Talk Video due today.