

Honors English I: Summer Reading 2025

All students **entering Honors English I** must read **one** text selected **from the list below** and complete the **written assignment**. Please contact ELA Coordinator Mrs. Afanasiw at nafanasiw@slrsd.org if you have any questions.

Book Choices (select one):

The Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Your Task: Create five (5) two-column **Dialectical Notes** entries to showcase your understanding of your chosen summer text. The term “dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical notes as a series of conversations with the text. For this assignment, you should select five (5) quotations from your chosen reading.

Procedure:

- As you read, choose short passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart.
- Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:
 - Effective &/or creative use of literary devices (such as simile, metaphor, symbol, diction, imagery, tone)
 - Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen or read before (be sure to explain in detail how your life connects)
 - Examples of motifs: recurring ideas throughout the text
 - Events you find surprising or confusing
 - Passages that illustrate the growth or shift of a particular character
- In the right column, write your response/reflection to the text, using at least **two** (2) of the prompts below. Your right column reflection should run **4-8 complete sentences**, and you should **label** the types of response from the categories explained below (A, Q, C, CL, R, and E).

(A) Analyze – Break down and explain the value of the language (individual words and phrases) and explain their significance to that passage and/or the work over all

(Q) Question – Ask about something in the passage that is unclear

(C) Connect – Make a connection to your life, the world, or another text

(CL) Clarify – Answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction

(R) Reflect – Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story or author of the text. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?

(E) Evaluate – Make a judgment about what the author is trying to say

All work must be **original** as explained in the high school's Academic Integrity policy (found on the high school website in the Student Handbook); the main idea is that you must not present ideas from another source or classmate as your own. Please **number** your responses in your notes chart.

Please Note: This course requires a summer reading and writing assignment. Summer work will be due by the second Friday after school begins.

Example:

Textual example and page number	Response/Reflection
1. “Kino looked down at her and his teeth were bared. He hissed at her like a snake, and Juana stared at him with wide unfrightened eyes, like a sheep before the butcher. She knew there was murder in him, and it was all right; she had accepted it, and she would not resist or even protest. And then the rage left him and a sick disgust took its place. He turned away from her and walked up the beach and through the brush line. His senses were dulled by his emotion” (76).	(A) The tension of this moment is highlighted by Steinbeck’s animalistic figurative language choices. Kino’s anger is snakelike; Juana’s calm resignation “like a sheep before the butcher.” Obsessive greed for the pearl has reduced human beings to their base and savage instincts as is illustrated in this passage. (Q) Kino is certainly capable of violence, as readers realize by this (midway) point in the novel. As Steinbeck depicts him, “there was murder in him.” How will this obsessive ambition come to destroy Kino (as the pearl’s destructive power is foreshadowed here, as in other incidents)? He does not kill Juana now, but where does he draw the line?

Your response:

Textual example and page number	Response/Reflection (label A, Q, C, CL, R, or E)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Dialectical Notes Rubric

Detail/ Specificity:

Each note entry follows all directions and provides thoughtfully-framed and properly-cited specific supporting evidence. Each entry provides a strong sense of specific detail throughout.

Insight/ Making Connections:

Each note entry raises thoughtful points and presents a keen understanding of running themes and questions in the text. Each entry displays an understanding of the author’s purpose(s) as well as the tools and techniques utilized.

Writing Style:

The writing flows and is free from distracting errors in grammar, mechanics, and style.