

Student Name: _____
Mrs. Willhardt
English 10
Trimester 1

What is a dialectical journal?

A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. It's a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the text (the words being read) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading). This is what you must do in your journal: keep a dialogue with yourself. In your journal, have a conversation with the text and with yourself. Write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas while you read. The important part is that you, the reader, are reading something and then responding to it with your feelings and ideas!

Why is a dialectical journal important?

This journal will help you, as a reader, think critically about the text you are reading. By keeping a dialectical journal, you will think for yourself about a text and offer your own interpretations.

How do I keep a dialectical journal?

Your journal will use a two-entry form:

- The left column "Text." As you read, use this column to write down parts of paragraphs from your books and articles that stand out to you. Write down quotes you like or notes from class that you think are interesting or important. (ALWAYS include page numbers in this section).
- The right column "Response." Use this side to write down YOUR OWN thoughts, commentary, and questions about the stuff in the left column. Include your ideas and insights and any reflections you have.
- Label your responses using the following codes: Most of your responses should be R and E
(C) Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
(P) Predict – anticipate what will occur based on what's in the passage
(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. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
(E) Evaluate – make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say

How do I decide what text to record in my journal?

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

How will the teacher grade my dialectical journal?

Journal entries must be at least five sentences long. I will grade journals in a variety of ways; I may spot check for a grade, or I may collect to read and grade thoroughly for significantly more points. I will be evaluating your journals on the quality of your response at any random or designated time so you can't just wait and try and do it all at the end.

- Number of entries meets requirement
- Detailed, meaningful passages
- Page #s included with passages and recorded in chronological order. Title of the work being cited is included.
- Thoughtful, insightful interpretation, commentary and connections about the text. Avoids clichés.
- Coverage of text is complete and thorough. (Passages are selected from beginning to end).
- Variety of response types displays ability to think critically.
- Journal is neat, organized, and professional looking; student has followed directions in the organization.

Note: If evidence of copying (or sharing your entries with a friend) is found, then each party involved will receive a 0 on the entire assignment.

Text	Response and Label
“You never had none, you crazy bastard. I got both of ‘em here. Think I’d let you carry your own work card?” said George (5).	E- George seems responsible and helpful: he holds on to Lennie’s work card for him because Lennie is developmentally delayed and may lose it. Although this is a good quality in George, George is also very hurtful and rude to Lennie by calling him a ‘crazy bastard.’ Does George really care for Lennie? Why does he continue to help and care for him if he is frustrated at having to do it? George overall at this point seems to have love and care for Lennie even though he seems exasperated at the responsibility of caring for himself and Lennie.
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Text	Response and Label

CHAPTER 2	
Text	Response and Label

CHAPTER 3	
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CHAPTER 6	
Text	Response and Label