

English 9 Advanced: Summer Reading Assignment 1

Please choose **one** fiction or nonfiction book to read over the summer and complete the Dialectical Journal Assignment. The book must be at least 200 pages, and it cannot be a graphic novel, novel in verse, poetry anthology, or short story collection. You may choose any genre, so please find something of interest. Also, make sure that the level is appropriate for you (YA or Adult). **This assignment will be due on Monday, September 15th.**

*In addition to the book you choose for your summer reading assignment, I strongly encourage you to read **at least** one other full-length text this summer. This will help to build the stamina that you will need for the advanced English courses.



I look forward to meeting you and working with all of you in September.

Have a wonderful summer!

~Mrs. Luskin

email: Lluskin@scsd.org

Dialectical Journal Assignment

dialectical (die-uh-LEKT-i-cuhl), n.: relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions.

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 journal will help you think critically about the text you are reading and offer your own interpretations.

How do I keep a dialectical journal? Please complete this assignment in a marble notebook. You may use the same notebook for your in-class journal in 9th grade. As you read through your book, you will copy down quotes or passages (at least 10) that you find significant and respond to them in your journal. Make sure that you choose quotes from different sections of the text. You may want to divide the number of pages by 10 and then complete a journal for each section. For example, if your book is 250 pages, you can complete a journal every 25 pages.



Look for content/quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought-provoking or puzzling. For example:

- Effective and/or creative use of figurative language or literary devices (tone, similes, metaphors, etc.)
- Passages that remind you of something you've read or learned before
- 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
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

How do I respond to each text entry? Please respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed. There is no limit to how much you can write, but each response should be at least 1 paragraph (5 sentence minimum).

*RESPONSE TYPES

(Q) Question - Ask about something in the passage that is not clear to you (something that you are confused about) or something that you are wondering. You may even question some rhetorical choices. For example, why does the author use particular words, phrases or structures?

(C) Connect - Make a connection to the world or to another text. You may connect some aspect of the book to music, films, a specific person, setting, or situation in our society. There are many ways to make connections.

(P) Predict - Make a prediction about what you think will occur based on your own inferences. Explain in detail why you made this prediction.

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

(A) Analyze - Deeply examine a specific element of the text: the role of a character, the meaning of a symbol, the influence of the setting, the importance of a theme, etc.

(R) Reflect - Think deeply about what the passage is trying to convey about the world, about human nature, or about the way things work around us.

(E) Evaluate - Make a judgment about what the author is trying to say; then agree or disagree with their message and explain WHY.

How will my dialectical journal be graded?

The minimum for full credit is to write 10 journal entries. Each journal response must be at least five sentences long, not including the quoted text on the left side of the page. All of the following will be taken into consideration:

- Number of entries- meets or exceeds requirement
- Chosen text- appropriately challenging level for his/her demonstrated abilities
- Passage selection- meaningful quotes/passages
- Format- title, author, page numbers are included/ presented neatly in a notebook
- Length of responses- at least five sentences long
- Quality of responses- thoughtful, insightful interpretation of, and/or commentary on, the text.
- Response variety- includes a variety of response types

EXPECTATIONS AND TEMPLATE FOR DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ENTRIES

(Save this handout for reference and create your own table in your notebook.)

TITLE OF TEXT READ _____

AUTHOR OF TEXT _____

Page # _____	Quote	Student response

SAMPLE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ENTRIES

TITLE OF TEXT READ The House on Mango Street

AUTHOR OF TEXT Sandra Cisneros

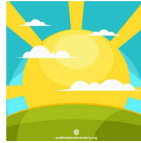
pages 10-11	“But my mother’s hair, my mother’s hair, like little rosettes, like little candy circles all curly and pretty because she pinned it in pin-curls all day, sweet to put your nose into when she is holding you, holding you and you feel safe, is the warm smell of bread before you bake it, is the smell when she makes room for you on her side of the bed.”	The list of similes and metaphors describing Esperanza’s mother’s hair emphasizes the connection that the narrator has with her mom. She obviously thinks of her mother very fondly when she mentions the smell of her hair as her mother is holding her, and she describes the smell as “sweet.” It is interesting that she doesn’t describe her other family members the same way. The “warm smell of bread before you bake it” reminds me of the comforts of home. Also, the fact that she makes room for her in bed demonstrates the love and care that her mother has for her. I almost wonder, at this point, if something is going to happen to her mother, or if their relationship will undergo a change in the novel.
-------------	---	--

TITLE OF TEXT READ Brave New World

AUTHOR OF TEXT Aldous Huxley

page 71	“ ‘And there’s always soma to calm your anger, to reconcile you to your enemies, to make you patient and long-suffering. In the past you could only accomplish these things by making a great effort and after years of hard moral training. Now, you swallow two or three half-gramme tablets, and there you are. Anybody can be virtuous now. ... Christianity without tears—that’s what soma is.’ “	This sounds too good to be true. Mustapha is telling John how wonderful soma is, and saying it’s an easy shortcut to more moral behavior. But is it? If people are only acting patient and forgiving because they’re under the influence of this drug, then their morals aren’t really better. Mustapha says, “Anyone can be virtuous now,” but the soma is actually brainwashing the people not to question their leaders. Could the tears he considers part of Christianity be tears of sadness and guilt at how hard it is for humans to remain virtuous?
---------	---	---

Summer Reading Assignment 2



Assignment: In addition to your choice reading assignment, you are required to read Richard Connell's short story, "The Most Dangerous Game." I will provide you with a copy of the text, but it can also be easily found online. After finishing the short story, **you will complete two of the following short answer questions about the text.** Your responses should be detailed, display proper writing conventions, and demonstrate a complex understanding of the text. Each response should be at least 250 words and should be typed. These questions will be due on Tuesday, September 9th.

Questions

1. Consider Rainsford's original thoughts on hunting. How does his perspective change throughout the story?
2. How does Connell build suspense throughout the story? Identify specific examples. Also, identify an example of foreshadowing.
3. Compare and contrast Rainsford and Zaroff in terms of their skills, motivations, and morals. What are some key similarities and differences?
4. What do you believe to be the overall theme of the text?
5. How do instinct and reason play a role in the story, especially in the context of survival? Which one triumphs?
6. What do the characters' choices say about human nature and survival? What happens to morality when survival is on the line?

[Link to the full text of "The Most Dangerous Game"](#)