

Summer Reading English 1/12 Honors

THE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

dialectic: the art or practice of examining ideas logically, often by question and answer, so as to determine their validity; logical argumentation

This method of reading and writing is an effective way to keep a record of your reading responses – positive or negative, sure or unsure. It offers a chance to respond personally, to ask questions, wonder, predict, or reflect on the characters, events, literary elements, or language of a text. Do not summarize! Instead, record your textual observations.

Instructions for keeping a dialectical reading log:

- Use notebook paper (one side only) or you may type it.
- You **MUST** have 2 columns (divide the page in half)
- Title the column on the left: "Quotations from the Text"
- Title the column on the right: "Commentary/Responses to the Text"
- ~~30 entries are required for grades 9 – 12 regular classes~~
- ~~25 entries per book for grade 9 Honors classes~~

Responses may begin:

- "The imagery reveals . . ."
- "The setting gives the effect of . . ."
- "The author seems to feel . . ."
- "The tone of this part is . . ."
- "The character(s) feel(s) . . ."
- "This is ironic because . . ."
- "The detail seems effective/out of place/important because . . ."
- "An interesting word/phrase/sentence/thought is . . ."
- "This reminds me of . . ."
- "Something I notice/appreciate/don't appreciate/wonder about is . . ."

Or you may begin an entry with something else you feel is appropriate.

Generally, each response should be

- 3 – 5 sentences
- include your analysis of the literary techniques present in the quotations
- include the author's attitude
- include the author's purpose or tone
- include a statement of relation to personal experience

Further guidelines:

- Show you have read the entire book by responding to the novel from the first to the last page.
- Make sure that you note the page number for the quotations.
- Quotations should feature proper punctuation and the page reference in parentheses as above.

Your journal will be used to determine your comprehension of the text.

REMEMBER:

These logs are not meant to be personal diaries. They are meant to be read by others and should relate only to the assigned material. You may be sharing your journals in class, so keep this in mind as you write. When sharing, you will have the opportunity to confirm, clarify, and modify your