

ENGLISH 11/12 (HONORS)

SUMMER READING 2011

CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY BY ALAN PATON

MERE CHRISTIANITY BY C. S. LEWIS

DIALECTIC 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—sure or unsure, positive or negative. 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.

DIALECTICAL READING LOG INSTRUCTIONS :

- Use notebook paper (one side only) or type your responses
- You MUST have two (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”

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...”

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

FURTHER GUIDELINES

- Show you have read the entire book by responding to the novel from the first to the last page
- Include at least 10 entries for each book
- Make sure that you note the page number for the quotations
- Quotations should feature proper punctuation and the page reference in parentheses as show in the example below
- You will need a copy of each title for classroom use during the first weeks of school

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 responses through discussion. You will also find that your journals can be helpful in writing literary analysis of the text.

SAMPLES

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL FOR *BLESS ME, ULTIMA*

Quotation from the Text

1. "She took my hand, and I felt the power of whirlwind sweep around me. Her eyes swept the surrounding hills and through them I saw for the first time the wild beauty of our hills and the magic of the green river. My nostrils quivered as I felt the song of the mockingbirds and the drone of the grasshoppers mingle with the pulse of the earth." (12)

Commentary/Response to the Text

1. The imagery reveals Tony's sense of the earth around him. As Ultima touches his hand, he is drawn into what seems to be a new and wondrous universe. This powerful experience makes Tony think that Ultima knows his fate and that they will be close. It can be inferred that their relationship will be a significant part of the novel.

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL FOR *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

Quotation from the Text

1. "He might have hurt me a little,' Atticus conceded, 'but son, you'll understand folks a little better when you're older. A mob's always made up of people, no matter what. Mr. Cunningham was part of a mob last night, but he was still a man...So, it took an eight-year-old child to bring 'em to their senses, didn't it?" (159-160)

Commentary/Response to the Text

1. The tone here is matter-of-fact. Atticus admits that Mr. Cunningham could have harmed him, but he explains that Mr. Cunningham's actions were not entirely his own; he was influenced by the crowd as is common for many people. It takes Scout recognizing him and talking to him to make Mr. Cunningham realize that what he is doing is wrong.

COMPLETE ONE READING LOG BY JULY 15 AND SEND TO:

Mrs. Susan Stinespring
Trinity Christian School
200 Trinity Way
Morgantown, WV 26505

THE SECOND READING LOG IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.