

English 9A
2018-2019 Summer Reading Assignments
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Hello and welcome to English 9A! In preparation for working together in the coming school year, this summer you will read and complete the dialectical journal assignment for one of the novels listed below. Please remember that all work should be your own. Do not consult with other students or teachers about the analysis of the literature. Although you may need to find out information about the historical content of the reading, do not use internet study guides or printed summaries for any other purpose. This assignment is an evaluation that will be used for instructional purposes; as such, it must represent your own thoughts and ideas. Ideas or analysis that seem to be copied or paraphrased from internet study guides or other sources will not be accepted.*

Choose one of the following classic works of literature to read. Henrico County Public Schools strongly encourages parents/guardians to work with their children as they choose their summer reading books. EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO COMPLETE ONE BOOK FROM EACH CATEGORY! 😊

Science Fiction:

1984 by George Orwell

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Minimalistic Fiction:

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

As literature reflects human experience, reading, writing, discussing, and thinking critically about the material presented will help you to reflect on and evolve your own vision of human possibilities. Just as in real life, the characters in each of these novels have obstacles that they must overcome. Some characters become stronger because of the obstacles while others see no way around their hardship.

The assignment is to complete a dialectical journal for your novel. A dialectical journal is like a conversation between what you are reading and what you are thinking. You simply write down **passages** that make you think or that interest you and respond to those passages with **your thoughts**. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature. By writing about literature, you create your own meaning of the work in order to truly understand it. The passages are there for everyone to read; however, the connections and interpretations are uniquely yours. You are neither right nor wrong in your response, so be willing to take risks and be honest. Refer to the sample journal included for guidance.

How will the Dialectical Journal help me?

A dialectical journal...

- ✓ encourages effective note taking
- ✓ works with all kinds of literature (including textbooks)
- ✓ encourages critical reading
- ✓ encourages active reading
- ✓ encourages analytical thinking
- ✓ encourages the habit of reflective questioning
- ✓ allows readers to explore and record new ideas
- ✓ allows readers to use writing as a tool for understanding and communicating ideas rather than a product to be judged
- ✓ develops readers' confidence in their reading and writing skills

By doing this assignment you will

- construct your own meaning from the text of the novel.
- provide direct feedback to yourself and your teacher about your thoughts and understandings as you read.
- gain insight into the plot, action, and significance of events and author's purpose in the novel.

Select a **MINIMUM of 10 passages (quotes)** from your chosen novel. You will create a short journal response to each of these passages. The selected passages should come from throughout the novel, as opposed to being pulled from only the beginning, middle, or end.

Write about:

- what seems unusual, what you think something means, or what predictions you can pose.
- literary elements and devices, author's purpose for using that **SPECIFIC** element, and how each contributes to the text.

Include:

- your initial reaction to the quote you chose.
- an description of what the quote says or does.
- an explanation of why the quote is important/the additional understanding that you gain from the quote.

You may type or neatly write the journals on the blank pages provided at the end of this packet. If you need more space, which you most likely will, you may make your own.

Title and Author of Selection Night by Elie Wiesel		
Text: (What are you analyzing?)	Page #:	Your Response:
Personification/ Internal Conflict "Death wrapped itself around me till I was stifled. It stuck to me. I felt that I could touch it. The idea of dying, of no longer being, began to fascinate me. Not to exist any longer" (82).	82	<p><i>This is a sad moment for Elie. He has fought to survive, but cannot fight any longer. I can't imagine being fourteen and wanting to die. I can't imagine being fourteen and losing my family, my dignity, my soul. What a tragedy. In this passage, Wiesel personifies death to show the control it has over those who are suffering in the camps. In this case, Death silences Elie, overpowering his will and subduing his hope of survival. Elie is conflicted. He wants to survive. He wants to take care of his father. But he doesn't know how much more he can take. This is important because we see that Elie has reached a breaking point. Death has come for him so many times but has failed. This time, however, Elie is too tired to run, too tired to fight. He has had enough. Death is offering a gift, a chance to escape from this hellish existence.</i></p>
"The snow was like a carpet, very gentle, very warm" (83).	83	<p><i>I can picture the prisoners standing in the concentration camp, watching the snow blanket the ground. It is silent there. The snow-covered ground is smooth and soft. Wiesel describes the snow as being "gentle" and "warm." This comparison is not what one would expect from someone who is standing barefoot in the snow. One would expect him to describe the snow as cold, biting into his feet. So why does he say it is warm? Maybe his feet are frozen, numb to the pain. Perhaps the snow provides the only insulation available to him from the night's bitter cold. This comparison creates a sense of peace, a moment without terror and fear. It is as if in that moment he is home again, safe and warm</i></p>

Rubric for Dialectical Journal

	3	2	1
Quality of Quotation, Analysis, and Commentary	Analysis is sophisticated, shows thoughtful examination of the text, and appreciation for the writer's literary style.	Analysis is present, but not thorough.	Analysis is skimpy or simply summarizes the example from the text.
Formatting	Formatting follows all guidelines: Two columns, page numbers included, responses lines up with quotes from text.	Formatting is mostly correct, but may have a few errors.	Journal is not in correct format.
Literary Elements	Identifies diction, figurative language, and other literary elements, describes the author's purpose for using these elements, and, drawing inferences from the author's language, explains how these contribute to meaning.	Identifies diction, figurative language, and other literary elements. Attempts description of author's purpose for using these elements, but does not draw inferences from the author's language or explain how it contributes to meaning.	Identifies diction, figurative language, and other literary elements, but there is little to no discussion of author's purpose or meaning.
Number of Entries & Coverage of Text	15 or more entries from throughout the novel. The reader may have hit on some of the more "famous" quotes from the novel, but the unique choice of entries, along with the student's unique reactions, clearly indicate a personal interaction with the text.	10-14 entries, and/or entries may not be evenly spread throughout the novel. The reader may have hit on some of the more "famous" quotes from the novel, but the unique choice of entries, along with the student's unique reactions, clearly indicate a personal interaction with the text.	Fewer than 10 entries, and/or entries may not be evenly spread throughout the novel. The reader may have hit on some of the more "famous" quotes from the novel, but the unique choice of entries, along with the student's unique reactions, clearly indicate a personal interaction with the text.

*Each student who truly reads and interacts with a novel will have a unique experience with his or her reading which will be evident in his or her uniquely-written journal. Conversely, a dialectical journal that shows a concentration on "famous," often-quoted examples from the novel, or multiple students turning in strikingly similar lists of quotes and observations, suggests possible use of online study guides and/or sharing and collaboration in lieu of reading and writing one's own personal responses to the novel. Please avoid this scenario by doing your own work!

Scoring:

12 points = 100

11 points = 95

10 points = 90

9 points = 85

8 points = 80

7 points = 75

6 points = 70

5 points = 65

4 points = 60

All dialectical journals are due Monday, September 17, 2018.

I look forward to meeting and working with you next year. Happy reading, and have a great summer!

Name: _____

Title and Author of Selection		
Text: (What are you analyzing?)	Page #:	Your Response:

Name: _____

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Text: (What are you analyzing?)	Page #:	Your Response: