

Freshman 2020 Summer Reading

Summer reading evaluations will consist of a journal which you will keep based on your reading, and a Socratic seminar during the first week of school in September. You will use your journal for the Socratic seminar.

- All CP English students will choose **one** book from *either* list and complete a one-page journal.

- All Honors English students will choose **one** book from the “contemporary” list and **one** book from the “classic” list and complete a dialectical journal chart for **EACH** book (two total).

Contemporary

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kid

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Friday Night Lights by H. G. Bissinger

Classic

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

Dialectical Journal Chart-Grade 9

Definition: A dialectic is “discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation.” Philosophers like Socrates loved this type of investigation because it stimulated critical thinking and often led to the revelation of a truth. However, instead of engaging in this type of exchange with another person, you will create one between the text you are reading and your thoughts.

Importance: A dialectical journal will help you think critically about what you read and form interpretations about the text on your own. It will aid in your development as a close-reader and supply you with insightful questions and comments to raise during class discussions and while writing essays.

How it works: Complete TEN dialectical journal entries for each book: this means TEN quotes and TEN corresponding comments.

1. Fill in the chart provided to you with quotations and comments that exemplify the term listed.
2. Copy **direct quotations** and **paraphrased sections** from the text **as you read** in the “Text” column on the left. Be sure to include the **page number** of each quotation or paraphrase in the space provided.
3. **Comment** on each quotation in the column on the right and explain how it exemplifies the term provided.

Grading:

A Range: Detailed quotation selections. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Includes comments about literary devices and how each contributes to the meaning of the text. Makes an insightful personal connections and asks thought provoking, insightful question. Coverage of text is thorough. Journal is neat and organized.

B Range: Less detailed, but good quote selections. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connection. Includes little of how literary devices contribute to the meaning. Some personal connection; asks pertinent questions. Adequately addresses all parts of reading assignment. Journal is neat and readable.

C Range: Few good details from the text. Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase. No discussion on meaning of literary devices. Limited personal connection; or obvious question. Addresses most of the reading assignment, but is not very long or thorough. Journal is relatively neat, but may be difficult to read. No page numbers.

D or F Range: Hardly any good details from the text. All notes are plot summary or paraphrase. Few literary elements, virtually no discussion on meaning. Limited personal connection, no good question. Limited coverage of the text; way too short. Difficult to read or follow. No page numbers.

F : Journal not turned in on date of collection.

Literary Analysis

- **PLOT STRUCTURE:** you recognize important elements of the plot, or perhaps the fact that the author has rearranged the traditional plot structure for a particular effect, or perhaps has used foreshadowing to hint at events to come
- **CHARACTERIZATION:** you notice dialogue, narration, and/or descriptions that both directly or indirectly help to develop a character’s personality and/or motivation
- **SETTING:** you notice details about the setting that impact the mood, characters, and/or theme
- **COMPARISONS:** you notice metaphors, similes, and/or allusions that convey ideas about theme, characters, plot, etc.
- **QUESTIONS:** something puzzles you or confuses you
- **JUDGMENTS:** you agree or disagree with an observation or idea
- **CONNECTIONS:**
 - circumstances or issues are especially relevant to your life (past or present) or the lives of others you know
 - circumstances or issues are especially relevant to something in history, art, pop-culture, science, current events in the news, etc.

Interactions

Name: _____

Dialectical Journal Chart - Grade 9

Book Title: _____

TEXT	COMMENTS
1. “A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. The water	1. Steinbeck uses imagery to open the novel with a description of the surroundings. The Gabilan mountains position the story on the

<p>is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky Gabilan mountains, but on the valley side the water is lined with trees-“ (1)</p>	<p>Pacific Coast of California. In turn, the reader is able to infer that the climate is hot and dry. (Setting)</p>
<p>2. “Sure, we’d have a little house an’ a room to our self. Little fat iron stove, an’ in the winter we’d keep a fire goin’ in it. It ain’t enough land so we’d have to work too hard. Maybe six, seven hours a day. We wouldn’t have to buck no barley eleven hours a day. An’ when we put in a crop, why, we’d be there to take the crop up. We’d know what come of our planting.”(58)</p>	<p>2. Why is it so important to Lennie and George to own their own farm? In times of economic struggle, like what they are going through in the Great Depression, would they even be able to afford it? Is this a realistic dream? (Question)</p>
<p>3. “A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin’ books or thinkin’ or stuff like that. Sometimes he gets thinkin’, an’ he got nothing to tell him what’s so an’ what ain’t so. Maybe if he sees somethin’, he don’t know whether it’s right or not. He can’t turn to some other guy and ast him if he sees it too.”(73)</p>	<p>3. As a black and physically handicapped man, Crooks lives on the outskirts of the ranch. His resentment often comes out in harsh wit but in this dialogue he is portrayed in a vulnerable and sad light. This indirect characterization demonstrates his loneliness and speaks to the migrant workers as a whole and their reliability on one another. (Characterization)</p>
<p>4. George, standing behind Lennie, raises a gun to his head and shoots him. Lennie is instantly killed by his best friend. (106)</p>	<p>4. In my opinion George shooting Lennie is justified. Although Lennie committed murder, Curly stated that he wanted to be the one to take Lennie’s life. Based on this comment, I do not believe he would have had the opportunity to be tried in court but instead be brutally tortured. (Judgment)</p>

Example from Of Mice and Men