

Ninth Grade Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

As you read your summer novel, you are to keep a dialectical journal, which requires you to read closely and to interact with the text. The object of the journal is for you to comment on passages that you think are important. Journal entries will be graded on the following criteria: quality and completeness of assignment; depth and thoughtfulness of reflective writing; organization and neatness. Keep your journal in a composition notebook (not a spiral one!). Your entries should be dated, in chronological order, and follow MLA format for quoted passages.

To set up your journal, first write the author, title and publication information for your novel, following MLA format. (If you are unsure about how to do this, go to Purdue OWL for help).

On the next page, draw a line down the center of the page, using a ruler.

On the left side of each page, quote your passage, using appropriate punctuation and page citation. Passages should include evidence of themes, characterization (what type of person a character is, revealed by his/her actions/ words or by others' response to him/her), a pattern or recurring motif, and other literary-based observations (conflicts, language, imagery, similes, metaphors, etc.).

The right side should include the following: In two or more sentences write a brief explanation of what is going on in the passage (who is talking? To whom? About what? What details are important?). In three or more sentences, write your own opinions, thoughts, commentary, and questions about the passage. In four or more sentences write an analysis of the passage: Why is it important? What does it reveal about a character, or event, or possible theme or idea that the author wants to convey? Is it possible to make a prediction based on your passage? The right side should show your thinking process.

Include at least 8 entries, 3 from the beginning, 3 from the middle and 4 from the ending. (Take the number of pages and divide by 3 to determine beginning, middle and ending).

Here is an example of an entry:

"You are not going to Wetherseld and you are going to take off that uniform right now..."

'I am an American, and I am going To fight to keep my country free,' said Sam"(20-1).

(Explanation) Tim had just woken up to hear his father and Sam arguing about going to war. Father is upset because he does not want Sam to take part in the war, but Sam tells him he will fight anyway. (Opinion) I imagine this conversation scares Tim because he realizes his brother really is going to go to war. My first

thought would have been "Will I see my brother again?" I understand why Father does not want Sam to fight. I Don't think it's about Patriots and Tories. He doesn't want Sam to fight because he's afraid of losing Sam. (Analysis) This passage is important because it demonstrates the effect that the war already is having on the Meeker family. At this point, the family starts to split apart because Sam wants to go to war but his father doesn't want him to. Also, Sam is on one side and...