

Dialectical Journals – Honors only

ASSIGNMENT: For the summer reading novel you choose (*The Catcher in the Rye* OR *The Scarlet Letter*), you are required to choose **10 important / meaningful / poignant** quotations to analyze and discuss. **Each quote should contain a 50 to 100-word reflection** that demonstrates critical thinking about the characters, themes, tone, historical issues, social issues, or other relevant academic topics.

DIRECTIONS: The quotations should be word for word from the text and include both the chapter and page number. You can choose to do each quote on its own piece of paper or create a notebook-style format. If you choose to do the notebook, I suggest drawing a vertical line down the middle of the page to clearly separate the quote from your analysis. This double-entry format option is below.

*The left column would be titled **Reading Notes** (something direct from the text).

*The right column would be titled **Analysis and Questions** (your own words and ideas).

Sample Dialectical Journal for *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

READING NOTES Quote/Passage (#)	ANALYSIS AND QUESTIONS Response/Commentary
<p>“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it. (ch 3, pg. 34).</p>	<p>This is a very famous quote and one that embodies the higher purpose of this novel. Though this quote occurs early in the novel, its message can be seen throughout. Atticus is fighting against social status; Boo Radley is fighting just to be seen as normal; and Tom Robinson is fighting just to be accepted despite the color of his skin. All of these people were sadly discriminated against because of the way they were – both by choice and by force – yet no one considered what they might be going through or how the world was from their perspective. If we all sit down and think about this idea, perhaps we can all learn something from their struggle, successes, and sad failures.</p>

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Lost for something to analyze or discuss in your dialectical journal? Consider the following moments as great points to make NOTE of! (← So funny ☺)

- Did you learn something that will aid you in your analysis of language and literature?
- Did you learn something that will aid you in your writing?
- Did you see something you didn't see before (an epiphany)?
- Did you recognize a pattern, such as overlapping images, repetition of ideas, details, colors that make a connection?
- Did you discover that the text is about something different from what you originally thought it was about (structural or content shifts)?
- Is there something puzzles you or confuses you?
- Do you agree or disagree with an observation by the narrator or author?
- Are there certain details that (suddenly) seem important to you?
- Are there circumstances or issues in the story that are especially relevant to your life or the lives of others?
- Did you notice something specific about the writer's style, such as unique/unusual dialogue or shifting perspective/ time sequence shifts/effective use of rhetorical/literary devices?