



## 9th Grade Literature–Summer 2024 Assignment

### *Book of Choice - Parent-Approved*

Students have the opportunity to choose a book for their summer reading assignment. The book should be one that has not been read before, and it must be appropriate for ninth grade students in both content AND reading level. The book will be used the first few weeks of school, so a purchased copy will need to be brought into class. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Hall, our 9th grade English teacher ([mackenziehall@calvaryknights.com](mailto:mackenziehall@calvaryknights.com)).

#### **Assignment:**

1. Read the instructions that follow on how to complete a Dialectical Journal. Set up your Dialectical Journal in a Google Doc.
2. Read your book **in its entirety**.
3. Complete your Dialectical Journal *as you read*.
4. Refer to the rubric below to see how your teacher will grade this assignment.

#### **What is a Dialectical Journal?**

The word “dialectical” is a fancy way to describe a conversation that leads to understanding. In a dialectical journal, the reader has a conversation with the text by choosing important quotes and responding to them in a thoughtful way. Through this exercise, the reader begins to understand the text in a deeper way.

#### **How many quotations do I choose?**

Choose **six** quotes.

#### **What counts as a quotation?**

Sometimes students think that a quotation is only dialogue that a character speaks in a novel—something that already has quotation marks around it in the book—but that is not always the case. For this assignment, a quotation is *ANY* sentence or passage from the book that you find meaningful in some way.

## What kinds of quotations should I choose, and what should I write about?

As you complete your assigned reading, choose sentences that strike you. You may choose sentences that are meaningful, beautiful, or interesting; sentences that develop a literary element (i.e. characterization, conflict, theme); or sentences that cause you to stop and think.

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** DO YOUR OWN WORK! Searching for quotes and commentary online—Google, Quizlet, Shmoop, etc.--and using that information as your own is plagiarism. If you plagiarize on this assignment, you will not receive credit for it. You can avoid this unpleasant situation by doing the reading and the thinking *for yourself*.

## What should my journal look like?

Create a 2-column table in Google Docs. Label the first column **Quote**, and label the second column **Analysis**.

Fill in your table in this way (scroll down for an example):

- **Quote:** Copy your quote word for word from the text (book), put quotation marks around it, and use a proper MLA citation at the end. Example: (Lee 24).
- **Analysis:** For each quote, your analysis should include **the context of the quote in red text** (what is happening at this point in the novel OR what is the main point of the chapter you chose?) and **an explanation of the significance/ meaning of the quote in blue text**. Think about these questions: Why is this important? What part does it play in the overall plot? How does it help develop the theme? How does it add to your understanding of a particular character or a particular conflict in the novel? What do you notice about the author’s craft--word choice, sentence structure, use of figurative language? (Of course you do not need to answer all of those questions for each quote, but those are the types of questions you should be asking yourself and thinking about as you write your analysis.)

Quote	Analysis
“Atticus practiced economy more than anything; for several years thereafter he invested his earnings in his brother’s education” (Lee 5).	At this part in the beginning of the novel, we are learning about Scout’s family history. She tells us that Atticus left Finch’s Landing, even though most of his ancestors had stayed there to work the land. Then she says that after Atticus went to law school and became a lawyer, he “practiced economy.” I think this means he didn’t make very much money at the beginning. It also says, however, that the money he did make he gave to his brother for his education. This shows the theme of courage very early on in the book. To start, Atticus is courageous to pursue what he wanted to do instead of

staying at Finch's Landing. However, I think it shows even more courage to give up what is best for yourself to help another person. He probably had to deal with a lot of people telling him that he should keep his hard-earned money, but instead he showed courage to live with very little money so his brother could go to school.

### DIALECTICAL JOURNAL RUBRIC

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Score Description
'A' Quality Work	100-90	Responses in these journals are <b>elaborate, insightful, well-organized</b> responses that demonstrate the student's ability to <b>analyze</b> elements of the text & connect with the text in a <b>meaningful way</b> . Responses need not be free of errors, but they should demonstrate <b>control over the conventions</b> of written language. Quotes/passages are <b>thoughtfully chosen</b> & responses to the quotes/passages are <b>consistently insightful, detailed &amp; original</b> .
'B' Quality Work	89-80	Responses in these journals are <b>somewhat insightful &amp; well organized</b> ; they demonstrate the student's ability to analyze the elements of the text & connect with the text in a <b>meaningful way</b> . Responses demonstrate a <b>greater degree of control</b> over the conventions of written language than do the 'C' responses. Quotes/passages are <b>thoughtfully chosen</b> & responses to the quotes/passages are <b>often insightful, detailed, &amp; original</b> .
'C' Quality Work	79-73	Responses in these journals are more detailed than the 'D' work. The student <b>attempts to make connections</b> with the text & analyze the text <b>but does not provide enough evidence &amp;/or explanation</b> . These responses may <b>sometimes rely on paraphrase or plot summary</b> rather than textual analysis. <b>Some thought</b> is apparent in the selection of quotes/passages. <b>Ideas may lack development &amp; may include distracting errors in mechanics &amp; grammar</b> .
'D' Quality Work	72-70	Responses in these journals <b>rarely extend beyond the literal meaning</b> of the text. <b>Some confusion</b> may still be evident in these responses, & the meaning they derive from the text may be inaccurate. Often these <b>responses rely heavily on paraphrase or plot summary</b> rather than textual analysis. Quotes/passages appear to be selected <b>randomly</b> . Ideas may <b>lack development</b> ,

		<b>are sometimes brief, sometimes poorly written, &amp; may include distracting errors in mechanics &amp; grammar.</b>
<b>Failing Quality Work</b>	69 - below	Responses in these journals rarely venture beyond mere <b>plot summary</b> in order to make inferences or to connect with the text. <b>Confusion is evident</b> , & the response rarely attempts to clear up the confusion through questioning. Quotes/passages are poorly chosen. Ideas <b>lack development, are frequently brief, are often poorly written, &amp; may include a number of distracting errors in mechanics &amp; grammar.</b>