

Dialectical Journal

English I Honors Summer Reading

Name: _____

Directions: Hello and happy summer! In order to prepare you for English I Honors, and give you the opportunity to read a great book, you will read **ONE** of the novels below and create a Dialectical Journal.

PART 1: Choice Novels and Descriptions: (Descriptions provided by goodreads.com)

Option 1: The Giver by Lois Lowery.

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

[Read the digital PDF HERE](#)

Option 2: The Book Thief by Mark Zusak.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

[Read the digital PDF HERE](#)

Option 3: Monster by Walter Dean Myers.

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life. As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what is the truth. This compelling novel is Walter Dean Myers's writing at its best.

Option 4: Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohen and David Levithan.

It all starts when Nick asks Norah to be his girlfriend for five minutes. He only needs five minutes to avoid his ex-girlfriend, who's just walked in to his band's show. With a new guy. And then, with one kiss, Nick and Norah are off on an adventure set against the backdrop

of New York City- and smack in the middle of all the joy, anxiety, confusion, and excitement of a first date.

PART 2: Dialectical Journal Directions: Dialectic means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” A dialectical journal is used to arrive at the “truth” of a written work by responding **in writing** to quotations from that work. While you read your chosen novel, respond to the work by using this journal format. The different response types will guide you through the reading & thinking process to help develop your ideas and express them on paper.

Requirements:

- Create 10-15 entries, distributed equally throughout the book of your choice.
- Clearly title the chosen response type for each entry (listed below).
- Respond to each response type (listed below) at least once.
- Write a 5-8 sentence analysis that specifically connects to one of the response types.
- **When finished**, upload the completed document to FOCUS by logging in, clicking on your % (NG) grade in your English class, then clicking on “edit/upload” on the right hand side of the screen **OR** bring in your handwritten copy on the first day of school.

Response Types:

- **Connection:** Make a connection to your life, the world, another part of the text or another text. Why is this connection significant? *This passage connects with....because...This connection is significant because...*
- **Reflection:** Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense--not just to the character in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, human nature, or the way things work? *This passage/moment seems to suggest...When I reflect...*
- **Author’s Craft:** Analyze the text for use of literary devices (imagery, symbolism, figurative language, tone, etc). How does the device impact meaning? *The author uses _____ to...The tone/mood of the passage is...this creates/develops...*
- **Character Analysis:** What does the character do or say that seems important? Reach a conclusion about the character based on evidence and inference. Is the character changing or growing? *The changes in (character’s name) occur because...The motives of (character’s name) are...and are important because...When it comes to the relationship of these characters...*
- **Theme Analysis:** What is the universal message (complete statement, NOT one word) is the author trying to reveal through the characters, conflicts and events in the text? *The author’s message/theme seems to be....The author wants the reader to learn...*
- **Point of View Analysis:** What point of view is the story written in (1st, 2nd, or 3rd)? Who is the narrator in this story? What is the narrator’s importance, and how does

Grading Rubric:

4 (100%)	3 (85%)	2 (60%)	1 (50%)	0
Effective and substantial	Adequate and clear	Inconsistent and/or weak	Minimal	No work was turned in