

# *AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2021-2022*

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I am so happy you are entering the strange and exciting world of AP Literature! Yes, we will work hard. Yes, we will learn a lot. Yes, we will have FUN!! (You might have to trust me on that last one...)

First, though, we have to get through the summer. And who wants to lie around on the beach or by the pool six feet away from each other when you could be reading great literature? The good news is, you don't have to make that horrible choice—you can kill two birds with one stone!

Your AP Lit assignment for this summer has two parts:

## **(1) The Dastardly Lit (naturally)—**

- Read BOTH works from the list below.
- Be prepared to discuss and compare these works extensively in class, including the author's use of literary devices such as symbolism, figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.), sensory language/imagery (visual as well as the other physical senses), characterization, foils, parallel plotlines, and so on to convey **plot, character, and theme development**.
- **There will be a comprehensive test covering both works upon the conclusion of our first unit at the end of August.**

## **(2) The Dastardly Dialectical Journal—**

- As you read each text, complete the journal as proof of your interaction with the text. As we read, we often have "Aha!" moments. Something on the page really resonates with us for some reason. Copy that portion of the text, citing its page number. The use of ellipsis (...) is fine for long quotes. Then record your thoughts about the language use, a word that confuses or intrigues you, plot, characterization, theme, allusion, a personal interpretation, or a connection to other texts or to your own life. See the Dialectical Journal assignment sheet for more detailed information on the assignment.
- **The Dialectical Journal is due Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There are NO exceptions. It is the first 100 points of the grading period.**

**DO YOUR OWN INTERPRETIVE WORK!** "Easy interpretation" sites (SparkNotes, et al) are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** sources of academic literary analysis, especially at the AP level. Additionally, working from such sites without crediting them is **PLAGIARISM**. Copying or submitting the same work as one another is also **PLAGIARISM** and is **NOT ALLOWED**. Either action, if detected, will result in not only a 0, but also disciplinary action. Besides, these are the ways of the literary coward.

**I would rather you get it FLAT WRONG all by yourself than STEAL it from somebody else!!**

## *AP Literature Summer Reading*

**(Read Both):**

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

## *AP Literature and Composition*

### Dialectical Journal Assignment Sheet

#### What is a dialectical journal?

According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, "dialectical" mean "relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions. The dialectical journal is another form of annotating a text and should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read. The overall goal of keeping this type of journal is to record what you are thinking as you are reading so that your impressions, questions, and ideas about the text are not lost. Question 3 on the written portion of the AP Lit exam is an open question, meaning as long as the work can answer the prompt, you can write about any long work we have covered in class. Your journal entries throughout the year will help you review works and prepare for this question.

#### How do I create these notes?

The setup is simple. At the top of the page, list the title and author of the work. Create a chart, labeling the left hand column "quotes" and the right hand column "notes". Journals should be typed. Entries should be numbered.

#### What might a sample dialectical journal entry look like?

<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee	
Quotes	Notes
1. "...as I read the alphabet a faint line appeared between her eyebrows, and after making me read most of My First Reader and the stock market quotations from the Mobile Register, she discovered that I was literate and looked at me with more than faint distaste. Miss Caroline told me to tell my father not to teach me any more, it would interfere with my reading (21).	<p>The novel takes place during the Depression, a time when kids like Scout had almost nothing to look forward to and no prospects for a better future. Scout speaks often of how dirty the kids are, how poor everyone is, so poor that no one notices that anyone else is in any better or worse shape than they are. Miss Caroline does not seem to understand that she is probably one of the few things standing between the kids of that era and total disaster. Her job is so important because she can give them the entire key to a better life. Instead, she singles kids out for mistreatment, demeans the children in front of each other, and does not try to inspire the kids in her class.</p> <p>Adults during the Depression had to have been afraid, afraid of starvation, afraid of losing their jobs. Perhaps Miss Caroline is so harsh partly because she is inexperienced, but maybe she is afraid that if she does not run her classroom like a factory, everyone doing the same thing at the same time, that she will lose her job. Maybe she thinks the kids genuinely need her to be so critical and rigid. Fear makes people react to their surroundings instead of acting rationally. Perhaps fear is a theme in this book, fear of poverty, fear of failure, fear of other races.</p>

<i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O'Brien	
Quote	Notes
1. "...they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders—and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry" (15).	<p>O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting</p>

	the war, and how they clung to the only certainty—things they had to carry—in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.
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<i>Song of Solomon</i> by Toni Morrison	
Quotes	Notes
1. "Fluky about her own name at twelve, how much more fluky she'd become since then Macon could..." (19).	The reader is made to love Pilate. Love her because Macon can't stand her. Love her because even at birth she breaks free of what conventional society expects of her. Her father does it for her. He gives her a man's name and to boot it is the epitome of what most good Christians would consider evil or traitorous...Pilate, the man who callously condemned Christ to death. She is everything Macon is not. She sings. He is stoical. She loves. He only feels contempt and disgust. She is colorful. He is drab. She makes and sells alcohol, which was illegal. He is the legitimate businessman. She has compassion. He cares nothing for his fellowman; he only cares about money. She is strength in her femininity, strength in a wholly female kind of way that has nothing to do with the docile stereotypes of women or the man hating stereotypes of women, nothing conventional. She is the epitome of life. She simply is, and is not ashamed.

How many entries should I have?

You need **7-10** dialectical journal entries PER NOVEL. **Be sure to choose your entries from varying sections of the novel: some from the beginning, middle, and end.** All of your COMBINED notes entries for a single novel should be a total of 1000-1800 words (no more, no less). Thus, if you have seven entries, they would be about 143-257 words each. If you had nine entries, they would be about 100-180 words each.

When is this assignment due?

This assignment is due on the **SECOND DAY of school, Tuesday, August 10, 2021**. There are **NO** exceptions. It is the first 100 points of the course. Assignments will be submitted on Canvas.

What do I write about?

Feel free to use any/all of the following in your dialectical journal entries:

1. **Quotes that reveal significant details about characterization**—this could be just good character description; details that surprised you; characterization that seems out of the ordinary for the character; characterization that marks an important change in the character; etc.
2. **Passages that you feel a strong reaction to**—this could include areas that cause you to feel confusion, anger, agreement, disagreement, etc. You can also include questions you have as you're reading here.
3. **Passages or lines that include especially resonant (strong) description**—record the passage on the left side of your journal, and then comment about that description on the right hand side. What techniques/literary devices does the author use to create this passage? How does the technique create meaning?
4. **Lines or passages that reveal symbolism, motifs, or themes**—explain how the selected passage accomplishes these things.
5. **Start with a quotation from a chapter and comment on it**—connect it to something larger than the book itself. Why is it important to society or to the human condition in a universal sense?
6. **Read between the lines**—sometimes it's what characters don't say that matters. Cite a passage and explain what's really going on. Show how you know this.
7. **Cite and explain an ironic passage**—how does irony function in the work?

8. **Choose a passage and look closely at the literary devices** the author uses to create meaning in the passage. Such devices could include diction, figurative language, imagery, syntax, tone, mood, characterization, etc.

Hints!

We will compare and contrast the treatment of similar topics in these works. While reading look for ways each author addresses the following big ideas:

- **Alienation**
- **Privilege**
- **Gender and Sexuality**
- **Loss of Innocence**

How will I be graded?

The Dialectical Journal	Strong 20 points	Above Average 18 points	Good 16 points	Average 14 points	Poor 8-10 points	Missing 0 points
Selects meaningful passages and quote selections from the text.						
Includes thoughtful comments about a wide variety of interpretive issues and literary elements.						
Covers the text consistently; has entries from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.						
All COMBINED notes entries for <u>each novel</u> are a total of 1000-1800 words (no more, no less)	YES					NO
The document is readable, properly formatted, and has the appropriate number of entries (7-10 entries per novel).	YES					NO