

## GT 10 Summer Reading Assignment

Please read the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. As you are reading, complete the following assignment.

### Dialectical Journals

**Throughout *Things Fall Apart*, you will choose 20 passages or quotes and respond to them in a meaningful way. Below are directions for writing a dialectical journal. You may do this in a notebook or electronically. Each response should be at least 5 sentences.**

The term “dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the text. The process is meant to help you to develop a better understanding of the novel as well as make a personal connection to the story, themes, and characters. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare for group discussions, and gather textual evidence for literary analysis assignments.

#### Procedure:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left column of the chart.
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each quote).
- You must label your response using the following codes:
  - (Q) Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear
  - (C) Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
  - (P) Predict – anticipate what will occur based on the what is in the passage
  - (CL) Clarify – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
  - (R) Reflect – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense, not just to the characters in the novel. What conclusions can you draw about the world, human nature, or the way things work?
  - (E) Evaluate – make a judgment about what the author is trying to say or what his purpose is

#### SAMPLE using *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Quote	Response
"Scout," said Atticus, "when summer comes you'll have to keep your head about far worse things... it's not fair for you and Jem, I know that, but sometimes we have to make the best of things, and the way we conduct ourselves when the chips are down—well, all I can say is, when you and Jem are grown, maybe you'll look back on this with some compassion and some feeling that I didn't let you down." (53)	(R) Atticus wants Scout and Jem to forgive him and to show some compassion for others. This is a big theme in the novel. The racism runs deep in the novel and while the story was set a long time ago, racism is still around. This is why the book is classic and timeless. We could all be a bit more forgiving and compassionate towards other people.