



Mandatory Summer Reading for 8th Grade IB

Greetings, Future Eighth Grade IB students! Part of the requirements for the IB Program is to complete Summer Reading. Choose ONE of the novels listed below to read for this summer. Complete a dialectical journal (described below). On the first Friday school resumes in August, you will turn in your journal, which is a test grade.

Please email me during the summer if you have questions: Greene.Charlene.R@muscogee.k12.ga.us

Instructions for Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is another word for a double-entry or two-sided journal.

1. Use a notebook (preferably MEAD)
2. Write your first and last name, title of book, and author's name on the first page of the journal. *You may decorate for extra points.
3. Draw a line vertically down the middle of a page
4. **On the left-hand side, write down particular words, passages, lines, quotes – anything from the text that you find interesting from the novel.** These may be passages you question, find beautiful or distressing, wonder about, or even relate to your own life experiences. Write these citations down along with their exact page numbers. Longer passages need only be referred to by the first several and last few words with an ellipsis . . . in between.
5. **On the right side of the page, react to each passage.** Your response may be an emotional or intellectual reaction, a question or hypothesis, a connection to something else you've read or experienced, a comment on style, or any type of personal interaction with the text. Try to grow beyond purely personal, emotional reactions in order to discover author's voice and meaning in the text. If you note a citation every few pages of the play, you're probably on track for length. If you let 10 pages go by without a comment, you're probably missing some important passages.
6. Complete @ least 15 pages. **PAGE MUST BE FILLED. DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF YOUR PAGES!**
7. *You are permitted to doodle, add color, highlight, or add pictures to engage in the text.

Select ONE novel to read:

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

A teen gang in rural Oklahoma, the Greasers are perpetually at odds with the Socials, a rival group. When Greasers, Ponyboy and Johnny, get into a brawl that ends in the death of a Social member, the boys are forced to go into hiding. Soon Ponyboy and Johnny, along with the intense Dallas and their other Greaser buddies, must contend with the consequences of their violent lives. While some Greasers try to achieve redemption, others meet tragic ends.

***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card**

When hostile aliens called the Buggers attack Earth, only the legendary heroics of Mazer Rackham manage to attain a victory. To prepare for the next attack, Col. Hyrum Graff and his cohorts initiate a military program to find the next Mazer. Recruit Ender Wiggin exhibits an unusual gift for the training, easily mastering all of the challenges thrown at him. Mazer Rackham, himself, takes Ender as a protégé to prepare him for the oncoming war.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.



Dialectical Journal Example:

	Dialectical Journal for <i>The Giver</i>	A Sample
Pg.	Quotations	My Reactions/Comments/Questions
1	Jonas was beginning to be frightened	I wonder why Jonas was scared?
2	Leave your bicycles where they are	This place has strange rules!
3	Jonas was careful about language.	This is an interesting comment. I wonder why Jonas has to be careful about what he says? Does this comment on the community? Why do people have to be careful with their language?
3	Asher: I apologize for inconveniencing my learning community.	This may be foreshadowing. Asher has a different personality than Jonas. He appears more playful and not as careful as Jonas is about rules.
4	Apprehensive, Jonas decided. That's what I am.	Why is Jonas feeling this way?

Scoring Rubric

A

- Detailed, meaningful passages and quotations
- Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés
- Includes comments about rhetorical strategies such as diction, rhetorical questions, syntax, and how these elements contribute to the meaning of the text
- Makes insightful personal connections and asks thought-provoking, insightful questions
- Coverage of text is complete and thorough
- Journal is neat, organized and professional looking; student has followed directions in the organization of journal

B

- Less detailed, but good quotations
- Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections
- Identifies and interprets many rhetorical strategies, but does not explain they contribute to the meaning
- Some personal connection; asks pertinent questions
- Adequately addresses all sections of reading assignment
- Journal is neat and readable; student has followed directions in the organization of journal

C

- Several relevant details from the text
- Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase
- Some listing of rhetorical strategies; virtually no discussion on meaning
- Limited personal connection; asks few, or obvious questions
- Addresses most of the reading assignment; there are gaps in coverage
- Journal is relatively neat; may be difficult to read; did not follow all directions in journal ORGANIZATION

F

- Incomplete/Does not meet the standards above