

Dialectical Journal

- Divide a page of notebook paper hot dog style.
- On the LEFT, copy a quote OR indicate a passage from the work of literature you are reading.
 - Add the page number
 - Feel free to use ellipsis
- On the RIGHT, write one of four kinds of responses:
- **A READER RESPONSE:**
 - your emotional or logical reaction to the passage:
 - “I think,” “I admire,” “I hope,” “I like,” “I am surprised,” or “I dislike...”
 - *or any other thought, emotion, or reaction to the passage.*
- **A PROFOUND QUESTION + ANSWER:**
 - “Why was Jem moved to tears when Mr. Radley sealed the knot hole?”
 - “What sort of a psychological impact would losing a parent or family member have on a person?”
 - *or any other interesting and insightful question of the passage.*

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- An ANALYSIS:
 - the psychological answer to a “Why?” question:
 - “She feels this because . . .”
 - “She wants _____ because . . .”
 - “She reacts this way because . . .”
 - “The father changes because . . .”
 - *or any other analytical response to the passage.*
- A SYNTHESIS:
 - comparing and contrasting, looking at cause and effect, or relating other sources to the work of literature/media:
 - “Jing Mei and Waverly are two Chinese-American girls of the same age, yet they’re different because . . .”
 - “The character of Lily in Secret Life of Bees is similar to Scout in her rebelliousness, but Scout’s positive connection to her father completely separates the two ... Whereas T. Ray is like _____, Atticus is like _____”
 - *or any other interaction between the passage and another part of the text or other sources.*

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- Use a spiral or single sheets of paper or WP it.
- Label your response either R, ?, A, or S
- Use at least three of the four kinds of responses in each page of your journal.
 - Yes, you will probably have a response that is longer than the quote or passage, especially if you use ellipsis
- As a guideline, complete roughly a page of journal for each assigned reading.
- Bring journal to class with you each day
 - Must be printed out and ready for class activities/discussion
 - Needed for in class activities
 - Checked randomly in class
 - “You snooze ... you lose.”