

Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is an interaction between you and the written word of the novel.

Divide the page of paper in your journal in half **vertically**.

On the **left** side of the paper, write out the **quote from the novel** to which you are responding with the **exact** words and **correct** punctuation. Include the **page number** of the quote **after** you write it.

On the **right** side of the paper, respond to the quote you choose. Your response should consist of **at least five sentences** and must show a thoughtful connection to the chosen quote.

Type I Dialectical/Reader Response Journal:

- Focus on note-taking, summarizing, questioning, and commenting
- Lends itself to personal writing, research, prediction, connections

Notes/Summary/Page	Questions/Comments
Take notes or summarize a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph • Page • Passage • Chapter • Other text Include page numbers and/or paragraph numbers	Ask questions/make comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit questions-found in text or other sources • Implicit questions-requiring inference • Open-ended questions-go beyond the text

Formulate an objective question with five possible answer choices.

Type II Dialectical/Reader Response Journal:

- Focus on characterization or other literary element
- Ideal for literary analysis

Evidence/Context/Page	Inference/Commentary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quote from text or context of significance Include page numbers and/or paragraph numbers	_____(inference) commentary, analysis, explanation, interpretation, etc.

Type III Dialectical/Reader Response Journal:

- Focus on a concrete device that creates an abstract idea
- Ideal for HOW language and style contribute to meaning

Device/Evidence/Context/Page	AIM/Commentary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name the literary/language device/element • Quote from the text Include page numbers and/or paragraph numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIM-author's intended meaning • Effect created by use of device—suspense, fear, peace, etc. • Author's purpose for device

Things to Consider When Reading

TITLE: Is it appropriate? Is it significant to the meaning?

AUTHOR: Read information about his/her life. Does he/she use personal experiences in this piece? If so, what are they?

GENRE: Why did the author choose this particular genre for this piece? Was the choice appropriate?

COPYRIGHT DATE: What influence does this have on the piece?

POINT OF VIEW: What is the point of view? Who is telling it? Is he/she believable? How would the piece be different in another point of view?

VERB TENSE: What is the verb tense used in the piece? What influence does this have on the piece?

FLASHBACK: Does the author use this literary element? For what purpose is flashback used? Is its use affective?

THEME: What are the stated and implied themes?

MAIN IDEA: What is the main idea of the piece? Does the main idea connect to the theme? How? Why?

SETTING: Is the setting significant? Could the piece have been in another setting and still be as affective? Why did the author choose this particular setting?

MOOD: Are the feelings created by the setting strong for the reader? What moods are created? Why did the author choose to create this mood? Does the reader share the intended mood?

CHARACTERIZATION: Is the character round, flat, static, dynamic, stock, or foil? What is the character's motivation? Is the character the protagonist or the antagonist? Is the character affective and believable? Is the character major or minor? Is the character the hero/heroine? Is the character an archetype? Is the character an anti-hero?

STYLE: What is the diction? What is the imagery? What are the important details? What is the syntax? What is the affect of these things? Does the author use allusions and figurative language? For what purpose does he/she use them? What is the form? What is the author's purpose in the use of this form? Is it affective?

MEANING: Look at the following on an individual basis.

- Plot
- Sequence
- Foreshadow
- Connotation
- Denotation
- Symbols
- Allegory
- Archetype

What is the author's purpose in their use? Is it affective?

CONFLICT: What kind of conflicts is in the piece? Are they believable? Why did the author choose these conflicts?