

Dialectical Journal and Annotation Instructions

As part of your summer reading assignment, you will complete a dialectical journal and annotate your text. Below are some examples of annotations and dialectical journals.

Annotations

1. --Write comments outside of paragraphs/sections of importance; especially places where you ask questions, relate to characters, think of your own life, etc.
2. * Star any passage that is very important: an event, a decision, or cause and effect relationship.
3. Underline any sentence that really makes you think or really appeals to you.
4. Circle words that are unfamiliar.
5. [] Bracket areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand.

Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal shows your conversation with the text. It highlights questions, connections, and ideas you had as you read. Below is an example. You should have 3-5 entries for each chapter. They will be evaluated on details and thoughtfulness. **Use complete sentences.** No run-on's. Put page # in parentheses in the quotation box.

Direct Quote from the Story	Your thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, recognition of literary devices related to this passage.
The flower garden was strained with rotting brown magnolia petals and iron weeds grew rank amid the purple phlox...the last graveyard flowers were blooming. ("The Scarlett Ibis," pg 1)	From the onset of the story, James Hurst creates the image of death through his description of the dying flowers and specific reference to the "graveyard flowers." The tone is heavy and dark creating a sense of foreboding.
A brilliant moonbeam was slanting through a gap in the curtains. (<i>The BFG</i> , pg 9)	Since the author used the word slant, I picture a sharp ray of light into the room instead of it just shining. The details help me picture the room and I wonder if the moonbeam is keeping the character awake.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did... • This part is about... • How are these similar... • How are these different... • What would happen if... • Why... • Who is... • What does this section mean... • This reminds me of... • This part is like... • The character is like... • This is similar to... • The differences are... • I also ... • I never... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This character makes me think of... • This setting reminds me of... • This is good because... • This is hard because... • This is confusing because... • I like the part where... • I don't like this part because... • My favorite part so far is... • I think that... • Oh, I get ... • Now I understand ... • No, I think it means... • At first I thought_____, but now I think... • This part is really saying... |
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