

DIALECTICAL NOTEBOOK GUIDELINES

English 10 PreAP
Summer Reading Novel
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A dialectical notebook is a double-entry journal that allows for learning connections to be made between the source, in this case, a novel, and the reader. These connections begin with selecting characters, settings, themes, events, quotes, and various literary ingredients in the novel and then examining them closely using higher order thinking skills.

You will maintain a dialectical notebook as you read **THE BEAN TREES**. The format for the entries and the type of information you'll share in each entry is outlined below. The fullest benefit from this thinking/writing activity occurs when a concept from the book is examined from a variety of perspectives, so feel free to vary your responses.

Stop approximately every two chapters and enter responses for that segment in your dialectical notebook. Some special requirements of this dialectical notebook are:

- **In addition to anything you CHOOSE to respond to, you need to cite and respond to at least TWO LITERARY INGREDIENTS** employed by the author and respond to their effectiveness/purpose/meaning. Check last year's AP Literary Terms List for suggestions of these ingredients.
- **In addition to anything you CHOOSE to respond to, you need to find ONE SYNTAX STRATEGY** employed by the author and respond to its effectiveness/meaning/purpose. Check last year's Sentence Syntax Strategy handout for help and suggestions.

You may use a spiral notebook to keep your entries, or you may collate individual pages if you prefer. Always date each entry, and give the chapters covered for that entry.

SOURCE MATERIAL

On this side of the journal, record a quote that may have intrigued you, an event, a description, a character's action(s), or a literary ingredient (imagery, conflict, theme, symbolism, foreshadowing, etc), a syntax strategy.

RESPONSES

On this side of the journal, record your thoughts regarding the excerpt you selected. Using higher order thinking skills, you can respond by: comparing your selection to something/one else, contrasting it, analyzing it, applying it to something/someone else you are familiar with, asking or speculating about it, defending or

condemning, agreeing or disagreeing with it somehow, predicting, judging its impact on the story and/or the reader.

**This side of the journal is always longer, fuller, and with more detail than the left side.
DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE STORY OR PLOT OF THE CHAPTERS!**