

English IV HL: Summer Reading Assignment

ASSIGNMENT: Create a dialectical journal for the novel, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien. The format should be double spaced, written in Times New Roman 12-point font, and have an MLA heading.

Directions: Provide 15 typed entries that are evenly spaced throughout the novel (i.e. don’t choose quotes from only the beginning or ending of the novel. To help avoid doing this, divide the pages in the novel by 10-20, and then discuss a passage from each section). Each entry must include a passage from the novel, an explanation of each passage, and a response to each passage.

ANNOTATIONS:

We expect students to annotate their chosen novel for **all** of the following:

*Motifs *Thematic Topics *Characterization *Symbols

Use (ICE) the three step process below to properly annotate your chosen novel:

1. **Identify** – the literary device (motif, thematic topic, characterization, or symbol)
2. **Connect** – to a specific motif, thematic topic, character, or symbol
3. **Explain** – the significance and relevance of the literary device (explain AND respond/analyze the quote)

WHAT IS A DIALECTICAL JOURNAL?

A dialectical journal is a conversation between a student and what he or she is reading. It involves recording passages that s/he finds compelling and providing commentary that reflects his or her thoughts and insight. This assignment requires students to read with understanding, to select significant passages from the text, and to clearly and meaningfully respond in writing to selected passages.

HOW WILL I BE GRADED?

This assignment will receive one grade based on the DP Grading Criteria. The dialectical journal will be graded for evaluating and creating based on Criterion C (worth 25%). Do not merely summarize the quote! Not explaining will be considered insufficient for senior-level responses to the text.

NOTE: This is an individual assignment. Collaborating, cheating, and plagiarizing will result in a failing grade per Lamar policy. WE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY! NO EXCEPTIONS!

WHEN IS THIS DUE?

Be prepared to turn in **an electronic copy** of your final draft on the first day of school: **Monday, August 26, 2019 to www.turnitin.com**. This means you save your work to a flash drive or send it to your email so you can access it in class. It must be ready for grading when you walk in the door. Students will receive information from their teachers for submission to turnitin.com when they arrive to English IV HL on the first day.

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Requirements and format for Dialectical Journal entries:

Left Column	Right Column
<p><u>Passages</u> (meaningful; span the novel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use quotation and dialogue marks • Provide a parenthetical citation • Quotes include any phrase, sentence or passage from the novel you are reading. <p>Select phrases that, for some reason catch your attention. These phrases might include a description of a place or individual, a piece of intense action, or dialogue by one of more characters</p>	<p><u>Explanations</u> (no personal opinions or observations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify thinker/speaker/audience (Who is speaking? To whom? About what? What is going on? What is actually being said?) • Identify “when” (after..., during..., conclusion etc.) • Identify the context (Provide any context the reader may need in order to understand the passage. Use details, no personal feelings i.e. argument over stolen money) • Translate (use your own words to paraphrase the passage) <p><u>Response & Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss in what way(s) the passage is significant (to the book, character, and theme) • First, react to the quote/text. You need a solid connection here. What do you think or feel about what is going on? Comments? Ideas? Opinions? Questions? <p>Explain or show how this piece of text is important. What is it showing? What do you learn from the quote/text? New insights? Significance?</p>

What follows is an example of a student response based on Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.

<p>“It was a pleasure to burn” (3).</p>	<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>These are the opening words in Ray Bradbury’s <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>. This simple sentence provides insight into the initial mindset of Montag, the main character, as he watches a house burn. The pleasure Montag derives from doing his job is evident, and by observing destruction, the reader understands that he/she is looking at a world much different from the current one.</p> <p><u>Response and Analysis:</u></p> <p>As Bradbury describes the burning of the house, the power of destruction becomes an obvious topic that the reader should study. Perhaps the most important concept that one should understand is that it is the destruction itself that holds power over Montag. As he watches the house go up in flames, he notices every “beautiful” aspect of the destruction. This beauty seems to hypnotize Montag and allows him to escape from the hardships in life that are later addressed in the novel. This destruction, and Montag’s concentration on the beauty of it, also empowers Montag to ignore the effects his actions have on other individuals. The destruction of houses, books, and people’s lives not only holds power over those who face the destruction, but it also holds power over Montag by developing a sense of creation (or beauty) for him. This scene is crucial to understanding how much power destruction has over Montag.</p>
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