



English II American Literature Summer 2016 Reading Assignment Due August 22, 2016 (first day of school)

Congrats – you're *almost* a sophomore at PMSA!!!! Here is the summer reading assignment for all sophomore American Lit students.

- Buy or check out the book *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart.
- If you have questions feel free to email – emason@pths209.org

Read the entire book over the summer and complete a dialectical response journal.

What is a dialectical Journal?

The term “dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journals as a series of conversations with the text as you read the book this summer. Completing the dialectical journals is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the text. Use your journals to incorporate your personal responses to the text, your ideas about the author’s purpose in writing the text, and your analysis of Ayer uses fiction and nonfiction techniques to develop this purpose. You will find the journals a useful way to process what you are reading, prepare for course projects, and gather textual evidence for analyses.

Steps for Writing the Dialectical Journal:

As you read, choose 25 passages from the beginning to the end of the book that stand out to you. Create a T-chart graphic organizer and record these in the left-hand column of the chart, *including* page number references. In the right column, write your response to each passage – such as ideas/insights, questions, and reflections toward the text.

Choosing Passages from the Text (left-side of t-chart):

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought-provoking, or puzzling. Examples are below:

- Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you have seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing;
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting.

Composing Responses to the Text (right side of t-chart):

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be *specific and detailed*. You can write as much as you want for each entry.

Basic Responses

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Describe what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Higher Level Responses

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc.)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry ***The Things They Carried*- Tim O'Brien**

Quotes/Passages From Text	Responses
1. <i>"-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry"</i> (Page 2)	1. O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons why they were fighting the war.

This assignment will be worth a total of **50 points**. Failure to turn in this assignment on the first day of school will result in a reduction of 10%. Failure to turn in this assignment on the following day after the original due date will result in a 0 in the gradebook.