

Incoming Freshmen (all Pre AP English I)

Required: *The Picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde

From the selections below, choose either Option I or Option II:

Option I. Choose one novel and one short story from the selections below:

Option II. Choose two short stories from the selections below:

Novels:

Absalom, Absalom! Faulkner, W.
The Alchemist Coelho, P.
Catch 22 Heller, J.
Obasan Kogawa, J.
The Once and Future King White, T.H.
Their Eyes were watching God Hurston, Z.
Wuthering Heights Bronte, E.

Short Stories:

“The Sentinel” Arthur C. Clarke
“The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” Mark Twain
“The Door in the Wall” H.G. Wells

Complete the following:

Dialectical Journals

Dialectical journals are journals in which a reader records a mental conversation with the text. You can use these journals to

- summarize and question
- pose questions (the first step to analysis)
- read closely for details, images, diction, etc.
- notice patterns
- write analysis and make connections
- connect method to purpose, effect, and meaning
- make choices about evidence
- document quotes
- make inferences about characters, symbols, etc.
- write analysis justifying an assertion

Do EACH of the following. Follow directions closely.

1. Summarizing, Observing, and Questioning

- Summarize assigned paragraphs, passages, or chapters in the left column.
- Note observations and ask questions (specify level) in the right column.

The student example is based on the first paragraph from “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst.

Summary	Observation and Questions
Speaking in past tense, the narrator describes the time of year and setting when the ibis landed in a tree in his yard.	<p>What is the “clove of seasons”?</p> <p>The narrator repeatedly uses words and images that indicate death and loss.</p> <p>What is a “bleeding tree”?</p> <p>Lots of imagery and figurative language</p> <p>Did someone die? Who? When? What was the relationship to the narrator?</p> <p>Do certain images remind us of the past?</p> <p>Do people ever completely recover from the death of a loved one?</p>

Choose a significant passage from the texts you are reading to analyze it using the format above. Complete five (5) entries per novel and short story.

2. Character Analysis

- Identify evidence about the character (words, actions, reactions).
- Use quotation marks around quotes and cite page numbers.
- Based on the evidence, make an inference about the character.
- Write commentary that explains how and/or why the evidence leads to or supports the inference.
- Use the journal to write a character analysis essay.
 - The inferences become the basis for assertions (thesis statements and topic sentences).
 - The best evidence is integrated into student writing for textual support of assertions.
 - The commentary is expanded and developed.

Choose a passage from a text you are reading that seems to you to indicate a certain tone. The student example is based on the first paragraph from “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst.

Doodle

Evidence	Inference—Commentary
<p>“His eyes were round with wonder as he gazed about him, and his little hands began to stroke the rubber grass. Then he began to cry” (191).</p> <p>“My lies were scary, involved, and usually pointless, but Doodle’s were twice as crazy. People in his stories all had wings and flew wherever they wanted to go” (193).</p>	<p><u>Sensitive, appreciative</u> – Doodle reacts emotionally to the wonders of nature; moved to tears of joy at the beauty of simple things. He is attuned to nature and in awe of its beauty.</p> <p><u>Imaginative, dreamer</u> – Doodle’s fantasies reveal his vivid imagination as well as his desire to be able to move freely and easily. Through his imagination he can escape the physical handicaps that hold him down in real life.</p>

Choose three character-based quotations from a text you are reading and analyze them using the format above. Be sure to select evidence that indirectly describes a character, evidence that shows

what he or she says or does, how he or she acts or reacts, and what other characters say about him or her.

3. Analysis of Theme

- Identify evidence that supports the thematic idea.
- Write commentary that explains the connection.

Thematic Idea – Pride

The student example is based on an excerpt from “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst.

Possible theme statements: “Pride is a wonderful terrible thing.”

Too much pride can lead to tragedy.

Choose a passage from a text you are reading that seems to indicate one of its

themes. **Analyze it using the format below. Include at least three pieces of evidence**

and commentary per literature piece you read over the summer from the list indicated below.

Conclude your journal with a one-sentence statement of theme.

Evidence	Commentary
“But all of us must have something or someone to be proud of, and Doodle had become mine. I did not know then that pride is a wonderful terrible thing, a seed that bears two vines, life and death” (192)	The narrator confesses his need to make Doodle “better” in order to give himself something to be proud of and to receive recognition for his actions. Because he is speaking about an event that happened in the past he looks back on it with the insight of an adult who has struggled with the consequences of his prideful actions. It’s not that pride in and of itself is bad, but he has realized that too much pride can lead people to do things that can have devastating results.