

Incoming 8th grade Summer Reading

Required novel: *The Wizard of Oz* Frank L. Baum ISBN: 0689831420

Choose one: *The Pearl* John Steinbeck
 Bless Me Ultima Rudolfo Anaya
 The Hot Zone Richard Preston
 Screwtape Letters C.S. Lewis

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, paying close attention to directions.

1. Summarizing, Observing, and Questioning

- Summarize your selected paragraphs, passages, or chapters in the left column.
- Note observations and ask questions (specify level) in the right column.
 - Highlight or underline the part of the book you are referencing in your observations and questions.

Choose a significant passage from the texts you are reading to analyze it using the format below. Complete three (3) entries per novel.

The student example below 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.	What is the “clove of seasons”? The narrator repeatedly uses words and images that indicate death and loss. What is a “bleeding tree”? Lots of imagery and figurative language Did someone die? Who? When? What was the relationship to the narrator? Do certain images remind us of the past? Do people ever completely recover from the death of a loved one?

2. Symbolism

- Identify symbols within a work.
- Discuss the literal meaning of the “symbol” in the context of the work.
- Explain the symbolism in the larger context of life.
- Analyze the effect or purpose of the symbolism.
- Reflect on the insight gained.

The student example of the symbolic dialectical journal is from “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst.

Symbolism—Literal	Symbolism—Abstract	Effect, Purpose, or Insight
The ibis is literally a tropical bird that has been blown off-course and injured in a storm. The bird dies in the narrator’s yard.	Symbolically the ibis represents Doodle. The ibis, like Doodle, is out of place, fragile, and unique.	The bird, like Doodle, is uncoordinated and struggles mightily. The death of the bird symbolizes and foreshadows the death of Doodle. Using the ibis as a symbol allows the reader to see the beauty of Doodle’s uniqueness and frailty and illustrates his struggle to the end.

Choose four passages from each work you are reading that seem to you to be symbolic (You will have a total of 8 entries).

Analyze it using the format above. Include at least three different symbols per novel.

Journals must be typed. (your journal is actually your written work, but you may put your work into a notebook or folder if you like)