

## Incoming Sophomores/Junior Pre AP English

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**Required Text:** *The Chosen* Chaim Potok (ISBN 0-449-213447)

Choose <b>one</b> :	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Agatha Christie
	<i>Piercing the Dark</i>	Frank Peretti
	<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Charles Dickens
	<i>Gulliver's Travel</i>	Jonathan Swift
	<i>All the President's Men</i>	Carl Bernstein
	<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison
	<i>Ethan Frome</i>	Edith Wharton

Choose <b>one</b> short story:	“Sonny’s Blues”	James Baldwin
	“The Yellow Wallpaper”	Charlotte Perkins Gilman

## 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

### 1. 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.

<b>Symbolism—Literal</b>	<b>Symbolism—Abstract</b>	<b>Effect, Purpose, or Insight</b>
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 seems to you to be symbolic (You will have a total of 16 entries).**

**Analyze it using the format above. Include at least three different symbols per novel and at least one for the short story.**

## 2. 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.

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
“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.

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

Too much pride can lead to tragedy.

**Choose a passage from a EACH text you are reading that seems to indicate one of its themes. Analyze it using the format above. Include at least three pieces of evidence and commentary per text (required text, choice of novels, and short story). Conclude your journal with a one-sentence statement of theme.**

**Dialectical journal must be typed.**