

NEHS Required Summer Reading Project: Dialectical Journal Entries

***ALL ENTRIES MUST BE YOUR OWN ORIGINAL WORKIN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING***

**IMPORTANT:** *Typed or word processed journal entries will not be accepted—this model is only typed so you may read it more easily.*

**DIRECTIONS:** *Dialectic* means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” For the reading selections, you will complete dialectical journal entries to aid in your understanding of the selections as you read them, and to demonstrate that understanding to your teacher. In these journal entries, you are essentially having a “conversation” with the text, (jotting down insights, questions, ideas, and thoughts), and with yourself. Set up your composition book to record dialectical journal entries like this for each entry—responses should be a 1-1/2 pages long.

**EXAMPLE: (model)**

*Note: Name and date each journal page*

**J. Smith, p.4  
6-24-08**

<p>Entry Number: 2 Date: 6-24-08 Title: <b>Great Expectations, Ch. 8</b> Pages read: 47-55 Brief Plot Summary:</p> <p><b>Uncle Pumblechook takes Pip to meet Miss Havisham and Estella for the first time.</b></p> <p>----- Cited Quotation/Passage (with page #):</p> <p>“...In an arm chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen . . . she was dressed all in rich materials—satins, and lace, and silks—all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white . . . . But I saw that . . . which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its luster, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers and dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone,” (49-50).</p>	<p><b>Dialectic Conversation</b></p> <p><i>Here record your “dialectic conversation” with the text and yourself—focus on the assigned literary element (characterization, setting, point-of-view, etc.) and how the author uses that to create meaning and serve his or her purpose. Add your own insights, questions, ideas, and thoughts:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Literary Focus:</i> <b>Point-of-View/Characterization/Atmosphere</b></p> <p>As Pip forms his first impression of Miss Havisham, so does the reader, seeing her through Pip’s eyes. Notice how through the use of details Dickens creates character and atmosphere as Miss Havisham comes to life in the dimly lit room of her mansion. At first I was immediately attracted to her, expecting a beautiful bride, all in white. Then, I was immediately repulsed as Miss Havisham emerged into the light as a strange old woman, who was dressed in an old, yellowing wedding gown. She told Pip how her heart was broken and how she has not seen the sun since before he was born. Her house is the same as it was on her wedding day—all the clocks have been stopped on the day her bridegroom failed to appear for the wedding ceremony. In the dining room, the table remains beautifully set for the wedding breakfast, which has molded, and is covered with cobwebs and dust.</p> <p>I realized that Miss Havisham continues to live in the moment of her betrayal, never getting over the pain of being jilted at the altar—she never leaves her gloomy chambers. I wonder what her pain and hurt will develop into in the future. How will Pip fit into her plans?</p>
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