

Honors British Literature  
Summer Reading Assignment  
2017-2018

You will need to purchase the following book for class: Paula Hawkins' *Girl on the Train*

This book is available at Douglasville Books on Douglas Blvd. at a 20% discount to our students. You may also buy it online at even greater savings. However, you need to have a hard copy of the book. Please have read Hawkins' novel before the first day of school and finish the following work: Complete a dialectical journal as follows -

Divide the paper in two columns. In the left column, write the text (quote) from *Girl on the Train* that you find significant. **Include the page number in parentheses.** In the right column, write your response to the passage. You may want to include some plot summary to remind you what is happening, **but most of the entry should be your commentary/analysis: a question that you have, why you think the passage is significant, your reaction to it as you read, etc.** Look for important connections and ideas, character development, theme, symbolism, etc. All responses must be in thorough, complete sentences.

This example is from Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Your journal should look like this, with the same level of thought and interaction with the text. Your journal **must have twenty-five total entries and must cover the entire novel.**

<i>Girl on the Train</i>	Response
"Her past had been like her present—intolerable—and since she knew death was anything but forgetfulness, she used the little energy left her for pondering color" (4).	The character of Baby Suggs fascinates me. I understand that she is Sethe's husband's mother and that she is dead at this point in the novel. I find this sentence especially telling about her life because as a slave in the past her life has been "intolerable," and even now that she is a free woman living in Cincinnati, Ohio, her life is still miserable. I look forward to her history. I am curious what caused her to stop thinking about color, and why she focuses on color now at her death. What would cause a person to stop thinking about color—and why now as she nears the end is color so important?
"How come everybody run off from Sweet Home can't stop talking about it? Look like if it was so sweet you would have stayed" (13).	I like the character of Denver—I think Morrison is going to use her to speak the truth when others are afraid to. She asks questions that I have been asking. So far characters refer to Sweet Home with very positive memories. The slaves appear to have been treated kindly there by Mr. & Mrs. Garner—but I think bad things happened after Mr. Garner died. I assume Morrison will reveal them as I read. They were slaves—why wouldn't they run away? Even if they were treated kind, they were still slaves. One would expect them to run away in order to find freedom.

Type your journal and use MLA formatting. This assignment will be submitted through [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) to assure authenticity. Any plagiarism will result in a zero for this summative assessment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Terry.OMalley@douglas.k12.ga.us](mailto:Terry.OMalley@douglas.k12.ga.us).

I look forward to working with you your senior year at New Manchester High School.

Terry O'Malley