

AP Literature and Composition

Mrs. Mitchell

Summer Reading Assignment

You will need to read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley over the summer. You may buy a copy of the book, check one out at the library, or read the novel online. The website for the novel is [Project Gutenberg-Frankenstein by Mary Shelley](#). You will be able to access this link from my website. **Please note that Letters 1-4 are part of the novel and must be read.**

In AP Literature, it is important to do a close reading of the novel. **There will be a timed writing and a test over the novel during the first week of school. Failure to read the novel will be detrimental to your grade.**

After reading the novel, you will create a dialectical journal. The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of highlighting/annotating text and should be used to think about, *digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember* what is read. It is a way to take notes on what is read using the actual text, so that when you are asked to write an essay about or utilize the information from the text, you do not have to re-read the entire piece. Instead, you can search your notes for direct quotes to use as supporting evidence for your opinions. A dialectical journal is also an effective way to assess your comprehension.

Requirements:

- Your dialectical journal should contain a **minimum** of 28 entries (one for each letter and chapter of the book).
- The journal should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, single space quotes and responses and double space between quotes/responses.
- Your journal should have a correct MLA heading which is double spaced
First Name Last Name
Mrs. Mitchell
AP English IV
Date
- Feel free to play with the topics for your dialectical journals; you may pull out passages you have questions about, passages on specific characters, passages on specific symbols, passages which build themes, or passages that demonstrate the style of the specific author. Feel free to comment on diction, tone, style, voice, etc. The important thing is that you have something to say about the passage. Your comments should be developed and demonstrate higher level thinking which goes well beyond plot summary. Please AVOID plot summaries.

1. For the Quote column, your entries may include the following:

- Meaningful or striking quotations or paraphrasing of important passages
- Confusing or difficult quotations or passages
- Evidence of theme, tone, mood, character development, plot complication, setting significance, etc.
- Vocabulary work in context
- Figurative language such as metaphors, similes, personification, etc.

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

2. For the RESPONSE column, you have several ways to respond to a text:

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the diction (vocabulary) used
- Discuss what makes the quote or passage meaningful, striking, or important
- Discuss how theme is shown
- Discuss the meaning and/or effect of figurative language (simile, metaphor, etc)
- Discuss the character's role and/or the values of the character
- Discuss the importance of setting
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Argue with or speak to the characters or author
- Comment on the relevance of a passage to its historical context or to the present
- Identify recurring symbols or images

This assignment is due the first day of class and will count as your first test grade. I will only accept hard copies, so please do not email your assignment. Any form of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero. I will be checking my email throughout the summer, should you have any questions or concerns. My email is Carrath.mitchell@redoakisd.org

I am looking forward to meeting you in the fall!

Jane Doe

Mrs. Mitchell

AP English IV

22 August 2016

Sample dialectical journal from *The Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

Quote	Response
<p>“Like the keeper of the lighthouse, she regarded the watermark as a mooring, a checkpoint, some stable visual object that assured her that the world was still there; that this was life and not a dream...” (Morrison 11)</p>	<p>The watermark confirms the relationship Ruth has with her husband, Macon; one of contempt and distance, one in which she has been repeatedly denied her existence as a powerful human being, but instead is treated with scorn or as somehow only worthy to have sex, bear children, care for the house. The watermark began as an expression of how she sees beauty in the world and ends as a reminder of her vision denied. At once, it gives her strength to go on AND makes her feel trapped. It is the truth of her life.</p>
<p>“And the one person who dared to but didn’t care to was the one person in the world he hated more than his wife in spite of the fact that she was his sister.” (17)</p>	<p>The reader is made to love Pilate. Love her because Macon can’t stand her. Love her because even at birth she breaks free of what conventional society expects of her. Her father does it for her. He gives her a man’s name and to boot it is the epitome of what most good Christians would consider evil or traitorous...Pilate, the man who callously condemned Christ to death. She is everything Macon is not. She sings. He is stoical. She loves. He only feels contempt and disgust. She is colorful. He is drab. She makes and sells alcohol (which was illegal). He is the legitimate businessman. She has compassion. He cares nothing for his fellowman; he only cares about money. She is strength in her femininity, strength in a wholly female kind of way that has nothing to do with the docile stereotypes of women or the man hating stereotypes of women, nothing conventional. She is the epitome of life. She simply is, and is not ashamed.</p>