



Westhill High School Summer Reading 2017 Grades 9 - 12



For this year's summer reading assignment, we would like each of you to select a book that you personally want to read. All we ask is that you make sure your book is grade-level appropriate. If you would like a book recommendation, please go to the Summer Reading page on www.westhillweb.com and click on the book suggestion link. You might also want to ask your English teacher or one of the librarians at The Ferguson Library for a recommendation. Finally, Junot Diaz will be speaking at UConn Stamford in the fall and students who opt to read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* may be able to hear him speak!

The Assignment



Read and enjoy the book you selected! ☺

As you read, look for quotations that seem significant, thought-provoking, or puzzling. Once you choose a passage that stands out to you, record it in the left column of a T-chart with the page number. In the right column, have a conversation-- or "dialogue"--with the text by questioning, connecting to, predicting, reflecting on, or evaluating the passage. **All entries *must* be typed and ready to submit to Turnitin.com at the start of the school year.**

Please review the instructions, sample entry, and grading rubric on the reverse side before starting your project. If you have any questions or need help, you can email Ms. Wheeler at cwheeler@StamfordCT.gov.

How to Set Up Your Dialectical Journal

Your dialectical journal should be typed and set up like a T-chart with two columns. The left column must include a **direct quotation** from the text with a **page number citation**. The right column must include the **context** of the quotation, or a brief summary of what was happening in the book where you found that quote, as well as a thoughtful **response** to the quotation. Your response can either...

- (Q) Question -- ask about something in the passage that is unclear
- (C) Connect -- make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
- (P) Predict -- anticipate what will occur based on what's in the passage
- (R) Reflect -- think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world or human nature?
- (E) Evaluate -- make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry using *Rebels by Accident* by Patricia Dunn

Quotation	Response
<p>“Ever since those people tried to build their mosque near Ground Zero and there was all that controversy, my life has been worse than ever. The kids at school treat me like I’m one of those people. But I’m not. My family may be Muslim, but I don’t think they should put a mosque so close to Ground Zero either. I mean, I believe in freedom of religion and all, and I know Muslims died at Ground Zero too, but why would they want to be where they’re not wanted?” (Dunn 3)</p>	<p>Context: Mariam was caught at a party and taken to jail. At first she was upset for letting her friend talk her into going but then she realizes that she really wanted to go. She thought the party would be fun and believed it would be a place where people wouldn’t make jokes about her religion.</p> <p>(R) Mariam is Muslim, but she seems to want to distance herself from identifying as Muslim because she refers to them as “those people.” She most likely does not want to be discriminated against due to her family’s religion and would rather fit in with her peers. She questions why they would want to put a mosque “where they are not wanted” reflecting her own insecurities about the need to belong. It is human nature to categorize people in order to better navigate the world, but many times these judgments are stereotypes that are not true. Mariam goes on to say that it is “selfish” for people to cause problems and I think this shows that people often want something for themselves without considering the effect it has on others.</p>
<p align="center">Direct Quotation</p>	<p align="center">Context of Quote</p>
<p align="center">Page Number Citation</p>	<p align="center">Thoughtful Response to Quote</p>

Grading Rubric:

You should have a minimum of **fifteen (15) entries** from the book-- five (5) entries from the early chapters, five (5) entries from the middle chapters, and five (5) entries from the final chapters.

- Each entry will be worth **7 points**:
 - Direct quotation = 1 point
 - Page number citation = 1 point
 - Context of quote = 2 points
 - Response to quote = 3 points
- **All entries must be typed into one word document and submitted to Turnitin.com by September 8, 2017. #WesthillEnglishandProud!**