

Dialectical Journal Guidelines for Summer Reading

Honors English II
Summer Reading

DUE DATE: THE FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Overview and Purpose

Dialectic means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” The “dialectic” was the method Socrates used to teach his students how to be actively engaged in the struggle to obtain meaning from an unfamiliar and challenging work. A dialectical journal is a **written conversation with yourself** about a text that encourages the habit of reflective questioning. You will use a double-entry form (see below) to examine details of a passage and synthesize your understanding of **John Knowles’s *A Separate Peace***.

When writing in your journal, there is to be **NO COLLABORATION** with other classmates. In addition, any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary literary icons such as Cliff, Schmoop, and/or Sparky will be viewed as cheating.

If you have questions about format or directions, email marycate.leboeuf@knoxschools.org

Your Instructions

1. You will be reading and responding to *A Separate Peace*.
2. Purchase a **marbled composition book** of sorts (one-subject spiral notebooks are acceptable too).
3. Draw a vertical line down the middle of the page. In essence, make a T-chart for each page.
4. Label the top of each column on the page like this: **TEXT** on the left and **RESPONSE** on the right.

HOW DO I START?

- **On the first page of your journal**, write the title and the author.
- **For pages 2-3 of your journal**: research and answer the following questions as historical context on author and time period can aid understanding of the text.

1. Who is your author? What is the time period of his life?
2. Does your research note that this person had a particular writing style? If so, explain.
3. What was going on in the world/society that may have influenced the writing of this text?

- **On page 4 of your journal**, you may begin responding to the text.
 - In the TEXT column, cite passages or explain a “moment” from the novel, including quotation marks and page numbers. **An entry without a page number will not be considered. Repeat: an entry without a page number will not be considered. It is advised that you write your responses as you read each chapter. Please do not wait until you have finished the book to start responding!** The number of responses per chapter are listed below:

<i>A Separate Peace</i>	Responses
Chapter 1	2 responses
Chapter 2	2 responses
Chapter 3	2 responses
Chapter 4	3 responses
Chapter 5	2 responses
Chapter 6	2 responses
Chapter 7	2 responses
Chapter 8	2 responses
Chapter 9	3 responses
Chapter 10	2 responses

Chapter 11	2 responses
Chapter 12	2 responses
Chapter 13	3 responses
Reflection Page (1 page or more)	What are some major themes or issues Knowles is trying to convey in this text? What do you see as the significance of this text? Does this text relate to your personal life experience? If so, in what way? How does this text remind us about what it means to be human? Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not?

HOW DO I FIND MY PASSAGES/MOMENTS?

Write passages/moments down accordingly (in the **TEXT** column):

- When you learn something significant about a character
- When you recognize a pattern (overlapping images, idea repeats, details, slogans, etc.)
- When you really agree or really disagree with something the character does
- When you find a meaningful quote, particularly one you believe marks a turning point in the story or one that relates to a major theme of the text
- When you notice that the writer's style is significant to the overall meaning of the work
- When you notice effective use of a literary device

HOW DO I RESPOND?

In the **RESPONSE** column reflect upon the passages in your own words. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE PLOT** or what you have just cited. **Respond and analyze.**

HELPFUL TIPS WHILE RESPONDING:

- Your response length is up to your discretion as a writer. **The more thorough and specific your response, the better grade you will receive.**

- Regularly read and re-read the previous pages of your notes and comments; that is how you will end up with a journal that has explored an overall concept/theme, etc., and might be an aid when you write your final paper.
- **FIRST PERSON** is acceptable in the response column.
- Vary your selected quotations between dialogue and non-dialogue. (Remember, this is not a book report or summary book.)

Assessment Guide

***A** = Meaningful passages and quotation selections. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Makes insightful personal connections, asks thought-provoking questions, and analyzes various literary devices. Coverage of text is complete and thorough. Journal is neat, organized and professional-looking; student has followed directions in creation of journal.*

***B** = Less detailed, but good quote selections. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections. Makes some insightful personal connections, asks some thought-provoking questions, and analyzes various literary devices. Adequately addresses all parts of reading assignment. Journal is neat and readable; student has followed directions in the organization of journal.*

***C** = Passage selection reflects randomness and lack of intentional thought. Too much of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase. Some listing of literary elements; virtually no discussion of meaning. Limited personal connection; asks few, or obvious questions. Addresses most of the reading assignment, but is not very long or thorough. Journal is relatively neat, but may be difficult to read. Student has not followed all directions for organization.*

***D** = Less than C work, right? You get the picture.*

SUBMIT YOUR JOURNAL:

- **Your journal should be completed by the first FULL day of the school term.**