

Animal Farm

Annotations and Dialectical Journal

Directions:

Each week, you will be assigned a portion of Animal Farm to read. This may be one chapter, or various chapters. You will be required to have read, annotated, and journaled about each chapter according to the following rules. Expect a summative reading test with passage analysis each day reading is due.

Annotations:

You will be required to complete the following before reading the book:

- 1.) A character chart should be written on the inside cover of your book (see example)
- 2.) A annotation key should be on the first page
- 3.) Create a title for each chapter - be creative!!

*If you are printing a PDF, you should have these attached to the printed PDFs.

Annotation expectations:

- Underline or highlight key words, phrases, or sentences that are important to understanding the work . • Write questions or comments in the margins—your thoughts or “conversation” with the text.
(Identify ethos, pathos, logos, or any other vocabulary words in this way)
- Bracket important ideas or passages.
- Use vertical lines at the margin: to emphasize a statement already underlined or bracketed
- Connect ideas with lines or arrows.
- Use a star to emphasize the most important statements in the chapter (use for DJ)
- Use ??? for sections or ideas you don’t understand.
- Circle words you don’t know. Define them in the margins.
- Use !!! when you come across something new, interesting, or surprising.
- Use an S for Symbols: A symbol is a literal thing that also stands for something else, like a flag, or a cross, or fire. Symbols help to discover new layers of meaning.
- Use an P for Propaganda: We will discuss these elements after break, but essentially, propaganda is a persuasive technique in speech or writing to convince others to believe/do a certain thing.
- Use a T for Theme: In literature, a theme is a broad idea in a story, or a message or lesson conveyed by a work. This message is usually about life, society or human nature. Themes explore timeless and universal ideas. Most themes are implied rather than explicitly stated. ****POWER****

Dialectical Journals:

Dialectical Journals are ways for me to see your thought process in a novel. You are not just looking at the content - what the book means - however. You are ALSO analyzing the importance of speech. As you know, this book is an allegory, and Orwell’s goal is to uncover the power of language. Your dialectical journals should reflect not only what happened/its significance, but the structure of the language. See the attached directions, tips, and examples.

Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature. By writing about a text, you make your own meaning of the work in order to truly understand it. When you do this yourself, the text belongs to you-- you have made it yours. The passages are there for everyone to read; however, the connections and interpretations are uniquely yours. You are neither right nor wrong in your response. So be willing to take risks and be honest. Do not research answers in secondary sources.

Expectations:

You must have 3 entries per chapter

This can be typed or handwritten, but they must always be in hard copy format.

You can keep these all in the same journal/attached, or you can add on each week.

They are due the day the reading is due (also day of the reading quiz).

Late dialectical journals will be accepted for 50% credit.

Procedure:

--Journals are evaluated on the quality of your response. I am looking for implicit understandings of the text. See the attached rubric for what I will be looking for.

--Select passages that you want to write about.□

--Write a detailed response to the passage you have chosen.

--Read, think, and write as much as you can.

--Always be sincere about what you are saying in your writing.

If you get stuck, use the following list to help you get started:

WRITE ABOUT: what you like, what you dislike, what seems confusing, what seems unusual, what you think something means, what personal connections you make, what predictions you can pose. Possible sentence lead-ins might begin like:

I really don't understand this because. . .□

I really like/dislike this idea because. . .□

This idea/event seems to be important because. . .□

I think the author is trying to say that . . .□

This passage reminds me of a time in my life when . . .

This part doesn't make sense because . . .

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry.

| <p>Quote/Passage that you are analyzing and page number (provide a direct quote or paraphrase and a parenthetical citation)</p> | <p>Paraphrase or summary (1-2 sentences)</p> | <p>Respond, Analyze, and Evaluate (1 paragraph / 100-200 words per entry)</p> |
|--|---|---|
| <p>“I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a “bank error” that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue? I haven’t played Monopoly in 20 years, but I’d still take the \$200 today. And what if a real bank made an error in my favor? That would be a tougher dilemma. Such things do happen (pg. 1)</p> | <p>The author is remembering that a common childhood game had a positive moment when a player received “free” cash because a bank made a mistake. This is the way the book begins and sets up the idea of the “Cheating Culture.”</p> | <p>By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember—not just the game, but the excitement of a “bank error” card. He also issues the question that “banks have plenty of money” so “why argue?” This really mimics what most people would probably say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn’t rightfully theirs. He moves from this game topic to a suggestion that it could really happen (which he will explain later) and suggests that it would be a “tougher dilemma.” It almost seems like this could be a sarcastic remark. I think many people would just take the money. We tend to view banks as huge institutions that will not miss a few rogue dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the “little guy” is barely getting by or may not even have a job is especially prevalent now. By this question, the author seems to be trying to get us to ask if we can even justify that type of thinking. Is this the right decision to make?</p> |