

AP English Literature and Composition Assignment #1
Dialectical Journal *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* AND your chosen novel

NOTE: Read this book first. Annotate during the critical reading of this text. You will read most, but not all, of the Foster text this summer. If the book does not belong to you, use Post-Its or take notes in a notebook. You will turn these in, use them for multiple assignments, and refer to these notes throughout the year. We use the Foster book all year long and will read the remaining chapters. Please arrange to buy or borrow a copy. Be sure you download the PDF if you're going to utilize the 2003 online edition.

IMPORTANT: The assigned chapters refer to the 2003 FIRST EDITION, which is available online as a PDF.

Introduction, Chapter 1, "Every Trip is a Quest"; Chapter 2, "Nice to Eat with You"; Chapter 5, "Now Where Have I Seen Her Before?"; Chapters 6-9, all of the allusion chapters; Chapter 10, "It's More Than Just Rain or Snow"; Chapter 11, "...Concerning Violence"; Chapter 12, "Is That a Symbol?"; Chapter 13, "It's All Political"; Chapter 14, "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too"; Chapter, 15, "Flights of Fancy"; Chapter 18, "If She Comes Up,..."; Chapter 19, "Geography Matters"; Chapter 20, "So Does Season"; Interlude, "One Story"; Chapter 21, "Marked for Greatness"; Chapter 22, "He's Blind for a Reason..."; and Chapter 26, "Is He Serious?..."

After reading the required chapters of *How to Read Literature like a Professor* AND THEN your chosen novel, complete the following assignment:

Each of the chapters in Foster's guide provides a lens through which literature can be analyzed. Reading Foster first will assist you in reading your novel deeply and meaningfully--on a level you've not been expected to or known how to before. Your assignment is to choose five (5) of those lenses to apply to the reading of your chosen novel, and for each lens, create a one-page, typed, in TNR 12 point font, dialectical journal.

1. At the top of each dialectical journal, write the title of the chapter/lens you are applying (you get the titles from the titles of the chapters in the Foster book).
2. Create a two-column table. Label the left-hand column "text" and the right-hand column "response." (Be sure to use this format.) Please align these neatly.
3. In the left-hand column, choose and copy down one or two excerpts from your novel that you can analyze through the chosen lens.
4. In the right-hand column, analyze the text you have chosen. The response section of your table should fill most of the right side—if not all- of one page and should be longer than the chosen text.

ABBREVIATED EXAMPLE: (using Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*)

Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?	
Text	Response
"Look, Brett. Tell Jake what Robert calls you. That <i>is</i> perfect, you know." "Oh, no. I can't." "Go on. We're all friends. Aren't we all friends, Jake?" "I can't tell him. It's too ridiculous." "I'll tell him." "You won't, Michael. Don't be an ass." "He calls her Circe," Mike said. "He claims she turns men into swine" (148).	By including these comments in the novel, Hemingway is obviously asking readers to note the similarities between Brett and Circe. Circe is a character from Greek mythology, most often associated with Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> , though she is mentioned in other Greek myths as well. It is true that Brett uses her sexuality as a weapon in much the same way that Circe exercises control over her "victims." Moreover, to argue that Brett's partners are changed is certainly evidenced in the effect she has on Robert Cohn, who is characterized as a man with old-fashioned ideals, and who finds violence, except for sport, distasteful. Yet when Brett discards him, he begins behaving quite like the metaphorical pig, physically attacking Pedro Romero. If Brett is Circe, who is her Odysseus? Certainly not poor Jake, who is literally emasculated in the war, and who is repeatedly emasculated by Brett's disregard. Pedro is the only other potential Odysseus. He is the lover that enchants the enchantress. Like Odysseus, Pedro must be set free in order to fulfill his destiny. Brett knows that to hold on to him would ruin him, and so she lets him go, one of the only selfless acts we ever see her perform.

AP Literature and Composition Assignment #2
Scrapbook/Journal Project

After reading the Foster text AND your chosen novel (*All the Light We Cannot See*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *The Leavers*, *Song of Solomon* OR *Where the Crawdads Sing*), complete the following project and assignment:

Be prepared to share this during the first weeks of school. Remember, “Every Trip is a Quest”, and “There’s Only One Story”. Again, annotate your novel, or use Post-Its or take notes in a notebook if the book is not your own.

Your scrapbook can exceed stated requirements, but must possess the following elements:

☐ **Pictures and Photographs**

- ✓ Include a minimum of 3 pictures or photographs on your scrapbook page. In selecting your photos, consider textual details regarding characters, the setting, the plot and conflict, etc. (Photos can be drawn, cut out of magazines, real pictures, or a print out from the Internet)
- ✓ Carefully glue the pictures throughout the scrapbook pages and consider mounting (or placing them) on construction paper or adding borders to enhance the look of your project.
- ✓ You will need to include a 1-2 paragraph explanation that describes what is shown in each.
- ✓ The pictures should illustrate 3 of the following 5 options:
 - The main character in a scene from the book
 - The character’s family or friends
 - The main character’s major accomplishment(s)
 - The setting of the story
 - A picture of your choice

☐ **Souvenirs and Mementos**

- ✓ Draw, create, collect, or find at least 3 souvenirs that the main character (choose only one character) would have put in a scrapbook.
- ✓ These objects should reflect events in the story or important aspects of your character.
- ✓ The souvenirs/mementos need to be attached to the scrapbook pages carefully, so they don’t fall off. Include a typed 1-paragraph explanation next to each object describing its significance.

☐ **Letters**

- ✓ Write two letters to your chosen character from the point of view of two other important characters in the novel.
- ✓ The letters should reflect the relationship these characters had with the main character. They may contain advice they would have given him in regard to a journey, a conflict, etc.
- ✓ The letters should be two paragraphs each and be typed or neatly written.

☐ **Diary Entries**

- ✓ Write 3 diary entries from your character’s point of view that reflects his feelings about himself. The diary entries should include how the main character changed from the beginning of the story to the end.
- ✓ Include information about what is going on in the beginning and the end of the book, which might influence the character. Be sure to include dates that reflect the “dates” the character wrote it.
- ✓ The diary entry should be three paragraphs each and be typed or neatly written.

THEME ASSIGNMENT*: Use the following resource to help you:

<http://msyostsclass.weebly.com/uploads/5/6/1/7/56179967/writing-thematic-statmentsomam.pdf>

Make a list of at least five (5) thematic concepts--abstract words--that conveys what your novel is about. Then choose ONE of these concepts, start with a thematic statement (with a TAG) and respond in one, well –written paragraph (11+ sentences) explaining the author’s theme or message. Support your answer with relevant textual evidence.

*You will write an essay the first few weeks of school for your novel. You cannot write about a book you did not read. You cannot write about SparkNotes. Stay off Google. This will be considered plagiarism. The same applies to the theme assignment above.

*As you read, consider some of the AP Literature Open-Ended Prompts. You can find a list of all of the prompts here:

https://mseffie.com/iOpeners/Open_Questions.pdf