

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment



Choose ONE of the following novels:

The Disenchantments, by Nina LaCour

An Abundance of Katherines, by John Green

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien

Into Thin Air, by Jon Krakauer

The Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd

AS YOU READ:

- Consider the question: *What kind of journey does the protagonist (main character) go on, and how does it change them?*
- With that question in mind, complete the dialectical journal assignment, choosing quotes that depict/ reflect your character at various stages throughout the story. Refer to the next page for more information about the dialectical journal.

AFTER YOU READ:

- Write an informational/ explanatory essay examining the question: What kind of journey does the protagonist from my chosen novel go on, and how does the character evolve over the course of this journey? Refer to your dialectical journal and incorporate evidence from the novel to support your key points.
- **NOTE: The final essay will be due Tuesday, September 7. We will spend some time together in class choosing evidence from your journal and planning the essay.**

Grade 9 Summer Reading Dialectical Journal

What is a Dialectical Journal? The term “dialectic” describes the process of arriving at the truth through conversation involving question and answer. Think of your dialectical journal as a conversation you have with your text as you read. While you may prefer to read uninterrupted, you will find that pausing to record your thoughts will keep you more engaged with the story, and ultimately lead you to greater insights. On a practical note, it will also prepare you for the writing assignment that comes next.

Assignment:

For this assignment, you have been asked to consider the question: *What kind of journey does the protagonist (main character) go on, and how does it change them?*

With that question in mind, create a dialectical journal for your summer novel as you read, choosing quotes that reflect your character at various stages throughout the story.

As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the LEFT column of your chart. Be sure to use quotation marks around quotes and cite page numbers in parentheses.

In the RIGHT column, write your response to each passage. Here are some examples of things you might include:

- Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear.
- Connection – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text.
- Prediction– anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage.
- Clarification – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction.
- Reflection – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story/author of the article. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work? *For this assignment, you might think specifically about how your character’s journey seems to be affecting them.*
- Evaluation - make a judgment about what the author is trying to say.

Example (from *The Hobbit*):

Evidence from Text (Quotation/ Page #)	Commentary
“Bother burgling and everything to do with it! I wish I was at home...” (32)	While something compelled Bilbo to go on this journey in the first place, he is losing his spirit of adventure at this point, preferring the thought of a warm fire and the other comforts of home. Nevertheless, he decides to carry on.

You should aim to include at least 15 quotes, including quotes from the beginning, middle, and end.