

Cypress Creek Middle High School

AP English Literature and Composition

Dear Students,

If you love reading and analyzing literature, you are in the right class! AP Lit is like a first-year college English class, designed to help you sharpen your critical analysis, interpretation, and writing skills in relation to fiction, poetry, and drama. I always loved English, but when I took AP Lit in high school, I fell in love with books all over again. I hope the same is true for you!

To confirm some expectations from the start, to succeed in this class you will read and you will read a LOT. You will write about what you read a LOT, as well. You will need to put in the effort and time to earn a good grade in this class and a high score on your AP exam. It will be difficult and, at some points, you may find yourself wondering why you took AP Lit in the first place. So, when and if you start to feel that way, here's why taking AP Lit is the best choice: AP Lit is where you will be surrounded by fellow booklovers. AP Lit is where you build unbreakable bonds with your peers who are going through the same literary adventure as you. AP Lit is where you meet incredibly diverse and intricate characters and go with them on journeys you could never previously imagine. AP Lit is where you will laugh, maybe cry, and feel the entire range of emotions in between, all in a safe environment led by a teacher who is far nerdier and passionate about books than you realize. 😊

We do have a few summer assignments, so please keep reading. If you have any questions, I am available via e-mail at jsrivera@pasco.k12.fl.us.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

Mrs. Jillian Rivera

AP Lit Summer Assignments

To prepare yourself for when our class begins in August, you will need to complete the following assignments over the summer:

Assignment 1:

Read carefully through *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and take notes. While I will not be collecting your notes, it is necessary for you to read through this book thoroughly so that you can have a deep understanding of how exactly you are supposed to read a book. You will need to reference this book in Part B of this assignment.

Assignment 2:

- a. Read and annotate *1984* by George Orwell.
- b. Create a dialectical journal for *1984* (see page 3).

Assignment 3:

Create flashcards and study the following terms:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Allegory | Alliteration | Allusion | Analogy |
| Anaphora | Antithesis | Assonance | Bildungsroman |
| Cliché | Conflict | Connotation | Consonance |
| Denouement | Denotation | Diction | Didactic |
| Ellipsis | Ethos | Epithet | Euphemism |
| Exposition | Hyperbole | Imagery | Irony |
| Juxtaposition | Mood | Oxymoron | Parallel Structure |
| Paradox | Pathos | Personification | Satire |
| Soliloquy | Symbol/symbolism | Style | Syntax |
| Theme | Tone | | |

Dialectical Journal Sample and Rubric

A dialectical journal, or a double-entry journal, is one of the best ways to ensure that you are thinking critically about a text. This skill will be beneficial to you not just academically, but in your everyday life as you analyze pieces of information presented to you. For academic purposes, think of the dialectical journal as a conversation you as the reader are having with the text; this ensures that you are reading actively. As you read, you'll choose quotations from the text to put in the left-hand column of your dialectical journal. In the middle, you will write the page number of the quote. In the right-hand column will be your responses, thoughts, reactions, connections, etc. with the text. Review the rubric on the following page for grading expectations.

Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

| Quotes/passages from text | Page # | Comments/Questions |
|--|--------|---|
| 1. “-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”. | Pg 2 | (R) O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons why they were fighting the war. |

Rubric for Dialectical Journal

Critical Reader (detailed, elaborate responses)—90-100:

- Extra effort is evident.
- You include more than the minimal number of entries.
- Your quotes are relevant, important, thought provoking, and representative of the themes of the novel.
- You can “read between the lines” of the text (inference).
- You consider meaning of the text in a universal sense.
- You create new meaning through connections with your own experiences or other texts.
- You carry on a dialogue with the writer. You question, agree, disagree, appreciate, and object.
- Sentences are grammatically correct with correct spelling and punctuation.

Connected Reader (detailed responses)—80-89:

- A solid effort is evident.
- You include an adequate number of legible entries.
- Your quotes are relevant and connect to the themes of the novel.
- Entries exhibit insight and thoughtful analysis.
- You construct a thoughtful interpretation of the text.
- You show some ability to make meaning of what you read.
- You create some new meaning through connections with your own experiences and the text.
- You explain the general significance.
- You raise interesting questions.
- You explain why you agree or disagree with the text.

Thoughtful Reader (somewhat detailed responses)—75-79:

- You include an insufficient number of entries.
- Sentences are mostly correct with a few careless spelling and grammatical errors.
- You selected quotes that may be interesting to you, but that don't necessarily connect to the themes of the novel.
- Entries exhibit insight and thoughtful analysis at times.
- You make connections, but explain with little detail.
- You rarely make new meaning from the reading.
- You ask simple questions of the text.
- You may agree or disagree, but don't support your views.

Literal Reader (simple, factual responses)—70-74:

- You include few entries.
- Entries exhibit limited insight or none at all.
- You accept the text literally.
- You are reluctant to create meaning from the text.
- You make few connections which lack detail.
- You are sometimes confused by unclear or difficult sections of the text.

Limited Reader (perfunctory responses)—below 70:

- You include very few entries.
- Very little effort is evident.
- You find the text confusing, but make no attempt to figure it out.
- You create little or no meaning from the text.
- You make an occasional connection to the text, and the ideas lack development.
- Sentences contain numerous grammatical and spelling errors.