

NHS English Dept. Summer Reading Assignment for College Prep Classes-2009

The purpose of the summer reading assignment is two-fold. Certainly, we want you to have an enjoyable reading experience with a book that you choose, and can read at your leisure. There are many books available at each grade level. The list can be found at NHS website under Library. Second, we want to prepare you a bit for the active and close reading that will be required of you in the fall. So, to achieve both purposes, we are asking you to complete a thoughtful dialectical journal. Many of you are familiar with dialectical journals, but for consistency, please review the following guidelines.

1. Provide no fewer than twenty entries from throughout the book.
2. To format, divide paper down the middle, making two columns.
3. The left column should be titled "Notes." On this side, you record direct quotes, paraphrased passages, or summaries from the reading. Each entry **MUST** have page references as modeled below.
4. The right column should be titled "Responses." Personal reactions **AND** analysis go on this side. These responses may include:
 - what the passage reveals about character, theme...
 - what the passage reveals about the author's style or tone
 - what feelings the passage gives you as you read
 - what questions the passage force from you
 - what connections can be made between various passages

The better journals are the ones in which students reread the previous page(s) of notes and responses before starting a new page in order to provide continuity in thought.

Here is a model for you to consider as you start your own:

Notes	Responses
<p>"I stood with my hand on the box of Hi-Ho crackers, trying to remember if I rang it up or not"(12).</p>	<p>Sammy loses his concentration easily. Granted, the girls are distracting, but losing focus mid-transaction like that shows he is not very focused. I'm concerned that he will lose his job.</p>
<p>"Now here comes the sad part of the story, at least my family says it's sad, but I don't think it's so sad"(14).</p>	<p>T.C. Boyle clearly sets up the climax of the story. This is the first time the word "sad" is used in this funny story. Sammy seems defensive-I am betting that he will lose his job. How will the girls feel?</p>