

## Incoming Seniors (Grade 12)

All senior students are required to read ONE of the following works:

**Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You** by Hannah Jansen

This novel, based on a true story, tells the story of Jeanne, a typical Rwandan girl living an ordinary life until political changes brings violence against the Tutsi ethnic group. Jeanne flees with her family in a desperate attempt to survive. This book recounts the unspeakable acts of violence that were part of the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the inspiring account of a person's will to survive.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time** by Mark Haddon

The main character, Christopher Boones is a fifteen year old with Asperger's, a form of autism. When he finds his neighbor's dog murdered, this mathematically gifted young man sets out to investigate the killing. Though Christopher has a great fear of interacting with others, he tries to solve the mystery. The author creates a wonderful portrayal of an emotionally dissociated mind.

**Assignment:** Complete a dialectical notebook for the summer reading book that you have chosen from the list above. Please see attached sheet for explanation and example of dialectical notebooks. Summer reading assignments will be collected and graded upon your return to school in September.

**All senior students should also read a book of their choice and complete the following assignment:** Complete a dialectical notebook for a book of your choice. Please see attached sheet for explanation and example of dialectical notebooks. Summer reading assignments will be collected and graded upon your return to school in September

## **DIALECTICAL NOTEBOOKS**

**English 12**

**Ms. Tobin**

**Dialectical notebooks take many forms and the basic concept has many names. The Greek word *dilektos* means “conversation, discussion” in search of the truth. That defines the relationship between readers and text when they use the dialectical notebook. In essence there is a tension between reader and text, so that the student becomes engaged in the content. It is this engagement that creates meaning.**

### **What to do:**

- **Divide your notebooks into two columns.**
- **One column is labeled *TEXT*. Here you record chronologically what you consider to be the most important points of the text you are reading. Thus, when you finish, you will have a summary of the material.**
- **The second column is labeled *RESPONSE*. This column should run parallel with the *TEXT* column, and it contains your personal reactions which occur at the moment you are reading the text. Literally it is your part of the conversation. You should ask questions, make comments, and record ideas next to that part of the text that has piqued your interest. By the time you have finished, this column represents an intellectual history of your reading experience.**

### **Advantages:**

- **SLOWING DOWN THE READING PROCESS. Taking dialectical notes slows down the reading process, forcing the reader to take notice of and reflect on details that would otherwise have been lost.**
- **Keeping track of your thought processes while reading. This is important because thoughts and reactions come and go very quickly, but it will be helpful and important for discussions, essays and test questions later on.**
- **Access to texts. Quality and depth of responses will vary, but everyone will be able to access, identify and interpret the text in some way.**

# DIALECTICAL NOTEBOOK SAMPLE

Name:

Date:

Title of Book:

TEXT	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Page 18, “Big tears of frustration and exhaustion were streaming down his cheeks. But because of all the wrinkles, they weren’t dripping off. They spread out and ran together leaving a water film over his ruined face. Meursault is at his mother’s funeral observing Perez, Maman’s fiancée.</li> <li>• Page #, Quote, Brief description of what is going on.</li> <li>• Page #, Brief description</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These lines are powerful and offer a vivid image of how sad and heartbroken Perez seems to be. You can picture in your mind’s eye the tears all over this man’s wrinkled face and how upset he must be at the death of his companion. These lines are important because they serve as a striking contrast to how Meursault reacts to his own mother’s passing. Meursault shows absolutely no emotion, while Perez, whom Maman has not known for very long, is overcome with emotion.</li> <li>• Your response, what is important about these lines, what questions do you have, make comments, etc.</li> <li>• Your response, what is important about these lines, what questions do you have, make comments, etc.</li></ul> <p>***NOTE, work can either be typed or hand written, but MUST follow this format. Logs MUST be on loose leaf paper, NO ripped or torn edges!</p>

