

2018 Summer Reading English IV

Students will read *Deadline* by Chris Crutcher, and complete ten (10) dialectical journal entries from throughout the novel's 21 chapters (see instructions below). This text will act as a basis for the start of class and will be essential to starting the course off on the right foot.

Dialectical Journals

The term "Dialectic" means "the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer." Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts, your ideas about the themes we cover and our class discussions. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your assignments.

Procedure:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage). If you choose, you can label your responses using following codes:
 - ✓ **(Q)** Question - ask about something in the passage that is unclear (limit to only two) - *be sure to respond to/reflect upon your question if/when you find an answer.*
 - ✓ **(C)** Connect - make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
 - ✓ **(CL)** Clarify - answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
 - ✓ **(R)** Reflect - think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense - not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
 - ✓ **(E)** Evaluate - make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say
- Provide at least ten (10) entries. **Each entry must be at least 2 sentences long.**

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

Passages from the text	Pg#s	Comments & Questions
"-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 they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.