

“May I suggest that you all read? And often. Believe me, it’s nice to have something to talk about other than the weather and the Queen’s health. Your mind is not a cage. It’s a garden. And it requires cultivating.” —Libba Bray, A Great and Terrible Beauty

English 11 Honors Summer Assignment

As we read, we often come across passages that make us think or feel, passages that stand out among the pages, that reminds us of something or sparks the metaphorical lightbulb above our heads...

For your summer assignment, you will read **two** books from [The Great American Read](#) and [Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Lifelong Learners](#), **one from each list** (The GAR is fiction, the second list is non-fiction). For each of these books, you will complete **3 Double-Entry Journals**. Double-Entry Journals are a way to converse and engage with a text when we’ve connected with it somehow. Usually, these connections fit into 3 categories:

Text-to-Text (meaning you can relate what you’re currently reading to something you’ve read in the past),

Text-to-Self (meaning you can relate what you’re currently reading to something you’ve experienced on a personal level, something in your life, or the life of a person you know), and

Text-to-World (meaning you can relate what you’re currently reading to something outside of yourself and your immediate circle of friends and family; “world” can be as small and familiar as the society of your town or as far and distant as a conflict on the other side of the planet).

As you read and make these connections, your task will be to identify and write about the passages with which you connect: the connection you made, figurative language and literary elements that are present in the text, questions you have, relationships to a theme of the text, and your own personal reaction will be a part of your entry. An example is provided below.

Use the chart below to complete your double-entry journals. You will have to make copies as you’ll need a total of 6 complete entries (3 per book). You may complete your entries by hand or type them. Entries should be written using complete sentences, follow the standard conventions of written English, and be thoroughly completed.

So, when you arrive to school in September, you will have read two books, one from each of the lists above, and will have a total of 6 double-entry journals, 3 from each book. We will be doing something additional with the books you’ve read to kick off our school year.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions regarding the assignment at bgonzalez-barone@schodack.k12.ny.us or see me before the end of the year!

Through this assignment, I hope you’ll discover new literature, keep your analytical skills sharp, but most of all, draw meaningful connections to the stories you read.

“That’s why literature is so fascinating. It’s always up for interpretation, and could be a hundred different things to a hundred different people. It’s never the same thing twice.” —Sarah Raasch, Snow Like Ashes

Double Entry Journal

<p><u>Title:</u></p> <p><u>Author:</u></p> <p><u>Page #</u></p>	<p><u>Passage chosen (direct quote):</u></p>
<p>Summary of what is going on at this point in the reading</p>	
<p>Type of connection made:</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>Personal reactions, beliefs, opinions about what is going on in this passage</p>	
<p>Literary or structural element of importance:</p> <p>_____</p>	

Figurative language and
its significance:

Connections in this
passage to the theme

Questions I have about
this passage or about the
text as a whole as a result
of this passage

Example of Double-Entry Journal

Double-Entry Journal

Title of Book:

Their Eyes Were

Watching God

By Zora Neale Hurston

Passage: She crept on hands and knees to the piece of roofing and caught hold of it by either side. Immediately the wind lifted both of them and she saw herself sailing off the fill to the right, out and out over the lashing water. (page 165)

Summary of what is going on at this point in the novel

At this point in the novel, Janie and Tea Cake are caught in the midst of a hurricane in Florida. They are trying to hold onto the roofing which has collapsed from the small shanty in which they were seeking shelter.

Reason for selecting this passage

I chose this passage because the imagery was descriptive and indicative of what was going to happen at the end of the story.

Reactions, beliefs, opinions about this passage

My reaction to this passage was that I wanted to know more about what was going to happen to both Janie and Tea Cake. I felt like I was in the storm. In addition, it made me connect to what happened to victims of Hurricane Katrina and how they just have felt throughout that entire ordeal.

Literary element: conflict

The conflict in this passage is clearly man vs nature. Janie is trying to survive against the fury of the hurricane and rushing waters. The wind is so powerful that it lifted both Janie and Tea Cake and threw them apart from each other. She is trying to survive; however, she is also worried about Tea Cake who is close to her in this ordeal, yet unreachable.

Figurative language: personification

Examples of personification in this passage are: *wind lifted* and *lashing water*. Both the wind and the water are given human qualities. Both qualities reflect strength and anger or wrath. Both wind and water are depicted as powerful, destructive forces that both Janie and Tea Cake cannot compete with.

Predictions or expectations

At this point in the novel, a reasonable prediction I can make is that Janie and Tea Cake are not going to be able to go back to their lives as they once knew them. It will become very difficult for them to stay together. Perhaps, something awful will happen to Tea Cake.

Foreshadowing

The fact that wind lifted both of them and then separated them foreshadows the fact that they will not be together.