

Reading Log: Dialectical Journal
Directions & Example

Directions: A dialectical journal is a written conversation about a piece of literature. During reading, the reader copies sentences or passages that are meaningful; then, the reader responds to the text in a variety of ways.

| Date | Text | Response |
|-------------|---|--|
| | <p>Text is chosen for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The text or details seem important • The text helps you learn something about the story, about the characters, about yourself, about life • You like the way the author wrote the text/something important about the writer's style • Effective use of literary devices • You strongly agree or disagree with something • Use parenthetical citation to indicate where your text originated. The author's last name and the page number where the text is found should be placed inside the parentheses following the quote. | <p>The Response section should reflect upon the quoted text. In this section, the reader can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give personal opinions • Make connections • Agree or disagree with the author • Compare/contrast the text with other stories • Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences • Discuss the words/ideas/actions of the characters or author • Make connections to any themes of the book • Make predictions about characters' futures • DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE PLOT |
| | <p>"Someday I will have a best friend all my own. One I can tell my secrets to. One who will understand my jokes without my having to explain them Until then I am a red balloon, a balloon tied to an anchor" (Cisneros, 9).</p> | <p>This part of the text caught my attention because it reveals information about the narrator, Esperanza. While she is close to her family, she feels obligated to be friends with her little sister because Esperanza is responsible for her. I thought the metaphor, "I am a red balloon, a balloon tied to an anchor" shows her desire to break free. Also, the color red makes me think of a passionate feeling, so I can tell Esperanza has fierceness inside of her. I hope that this motivates her break free when she can.</p> |
| | <p>"We sit in stunned silence... and then slowly, ever so slowly, my classmates stand up one by one and file out of the classroom" (Bitton-Jackson, 22).</p> | <p>I find it strange that the kids were sad that the school closed. I would have been happy about this. They were so sad; one of them cried!</p> |