



CHARACTER JOURNALS

Reading and interacting with text and text evidence

CHARACTER JOURNALS

- What is the purpose?
 - Identify character traits of characters
 - Identify and explain literary devices and figurative language
 - Make inferences about what I am reading
- How does this help me?
 - I make connections with the text.
 - I improve my knowledge and skill set for analysis.



HOW IS IT DONE?

- Get a sheet of notebook paper.
- Fold it in half length-wise.
- On the left-hand side, you will write the author's words as they appear in the text.
 - This could be a literary element.
 - This could be evidence for your inference (conclusion).
 - Highlight the literary element.
 - Parenthetically document the text you use.



HOW-TO (CONTINUED)

- On the right hand side, you will make a connection.
- Use adjectives of personality for inference about characters.
- Write commentary (your explanation of how/why).



AN EXAMPLE

- Hyperbole, magic three, idiom
- “If I had thought about attacking Dill for ten seconds before I had done it, I’d have been four blocks away in a minute flat. . .A wire broke. A fuse blew. And I had gone out of my skull” (Shepherd 6).
- Ralph is foolhardy meaning he acted in a rather reckless manner not thinking before he acted.
- Ralph is foolhardy because he reacted to a situation before he thought about it. Grover had been picking on him for years, and he just couldn’t take it anymore. When the fight was over, Ralph realized that he had not solved his problem but created a bigger one because Grover would now want revenge.

Text Evidence

Commentary explains how quote led him to conclusion.