

# Dialectical Journal

Frisco ISD

6<sup>th</sup> Grade PAP ILA and ILA

# What is a dialectical or double-entry journal?

This is simply a double-entry note-taking process that you write while you are reading literature. The two columns on each page are “in dialogue” with each other.

# How is it done?

Begin by drawing a line down the middle of your notebook paper, making two columns down the page. Record direct quotations and citations (page numbers) in the column on the left. The right-hand column is used for commenting and/or questioning the quotation column on the left. As you read, watch for interesting, “eye-brow raising” quotations/passages.

# Why do this?

Dialectical journal writing has been shown to develop critical reading skills and encourages habits of reflective questioning.



# Example

| Note Taking (Evidence)                          | Note Making (Commentary)  |
|---|---|
| "The old charts call it Ship-Trap Island" (13). | This setting is part of the exposition. The name of the island sets the mood and could foreshadow events to come. |

# Dialectical Journal Example:

## *Fever 1793*

### Note Taking

"Eliza's idea of a hairstyle began with brushing me bald." (Anderson, p. 43)

### Note Making

This is an example of a hyperbole. It made me think of Mama combing my hair when I was a little girl. There were times when it felt as if she could actually remove my hair by the roots.

# Dialectical Journal Example: *Walking Two Moons*

## Note Taking

“My father says I lean on broken reeds and will get a face full of swamp mud one day.” (Creech, p. 7)

## Note Making

This is an example of an allusion. During the days of the prophet Isaiah, he wrote a warning to the kings of Israel about depending on the kingdom of Egypt in a time of need.

# Dialectical Journal Example: *Where the Red Fern Grows*

## Note Taking

"Its huge limbs spread out over the small birch, ash, box elder, and water oak as if it alone were their protector." (Rawls 77)

## Note Making

This is an example of personification. I can imagine the larger tree protecting the smaller trees in the same way that a mother hen protects her young chicks.