Dialectical Journal Template
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.

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 Literary Analysis assignments and research papers.
Procedure

As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column the chart (ALWAYS include page numbers and paragraph).

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, and your ideas about the themes we cover and our class discussions.

In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage).

Also, you must label your responses using the following codes:
Dialectic Journal Codes:

1. **(Q) Question** – ask about something in the passage that is unclear
2. **(C) Connect** – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
3. **(P) Predict** – anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage
4. **(CL) Clarify** – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
5. **(R) Reflect** – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story/author of the article. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
6. **(E) Evaluate** - make a judgment about what the author is trying to say
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<th>Entry # Page # and/or Act/Scene &amp; line #</th>
<th>“Quote”</th>
<th>Your Response/Commentary (Q/C/P/CL/R/E)</th>
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*The Road*
Dialectical Journal Suggestions

CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:
Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling.
For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting
You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed.

You can write as much as you want for each entry. You can choose to type and save your journals, or you can write by hand and then scan and save as PDF. Just make sure they are legible.
Basic Responses:

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author
Sample Sentence Starters:

- I really don’t understand this because...
- I really dislike/like this idea because...
- I think the author is trying to say that...
- This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...
- If I were (name of character) at this point I would...
- This part doesn’t make sense because...
- This character reminds me of (name of person) because...
Higher Level Responses:

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole.
Dialectical Journal Requirements for *Night*

- .5 point: Entry number & page number
- .5 points: Quote
- 2 points: Your Response (correctly labeled)

__________

3 points per entry
Your required number of responses: 15 Responses

15 x 3 = **45 points (formative)**
**Due: Tuesday, 10/27/15**