

Summer Reading 2022-2023 English III

Welcome to English III where we will be looking through American literature. In this year, we will hit on some sensitive topics that have dwelt in our nation's history as well as are relevant even today. This course focuses on writing, literary analysis, and critical thinking.

This summer you have the choice of reading one of three books.

- *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson (ISBN: 978-0312424404)
- *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin (ISBN: 978-1595540546)
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok (ISBN: 978-0449213445)

This summer you have four books to choose from. My advice would be that you look over each one and choose the book that interests you the most.

1. Secure a copy of the book that you chose from the list above.
2. As you closely read the novel, you will complete **thirty-five (35)** dialectical journal entries; These journal entries must be taken from throughout the book. If entries are clustered towards one area of the book, points will be taken off the assignment.
 - a. The dialectical journal is due on the first day of school: **August 10, 2022.**
 - b. **You are required to type your journals. Please format your journals after the sample below.**
3. If you read the book early in the summer, I'd recommend skimming over the book prior to coming back into school to be ready to respond in a timed writing.

1. Dialectical Journals

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. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for group discussion.

Procedure:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)
- Label each of your responses using the following codes:
 - **(Q)** Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear (limit to only two) - *be sure to respond to/reflect upon your question if/when you find an answer.*
 - **(C)** Connect – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
 - **(CL)** Clarify – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
 - **(R)** Reflect – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
 - **(E)** Evaluate - make a judgment about the character(s), their actions, or what the author is trying to say
- Provide at least **thirty-five (35) entries. Each entry must be at least two (2) sentences long.**

Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien

Passages from the text	Pg#s	Comments & Questions
<p>“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”.</p>	Pg 2	<p>(R) O'brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</p>

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

Responding To the Text:

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*.

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

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

REMINDERS:

- Write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas **while you read** or **immediately after reading a section of the book** so the information is fresh. Each response must be at least 2 complete sentences.
- As you take notes, you should regularly re-read your previous pages of notes and comments.
- First person writing (using the pronoun “I”) is acceptable in the RESPONSE column.
- Remember the quotations in the TEXT column do not have to be dialogue!
- Your dialectical journal is due on the first day of school

2. **Timed Writing**

There will be a timed writing over the book you chose to read and you will be able to use your book for reference. This timed writing is to assess where you are and prepare for instruction moving forward.

In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the Internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Shmoop, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating. If you have questions about formatting, email bpiech@lexingtonchristian.org.

Assignment Point breakdown:

Dialectical Journal	50 points (Homework)
Timed Writing	50 points (Writing)