

Dialectical Journal Assignment

Based on what I saw in your first attempt at dialectical journals, here are more clear expectations for what you need to do in this second attempt in order to do well:

"My mother is a flawless, modern building, created of glass and the smoothest and beautiful as if she were an architectural triumph, but this image is juxtaposed with the suggestion that she is likely a mess on the inside"

try to use literary terms like "image" and "juxtapose"

offices furnished in beige carpets and gleaming chromium. In every room there are machines - computers, typewriters, intricate copiers. They are extremely efficient but empty like robots

way, absorbing and people and situations immediately and without care/regard for others

spitting out information with the speed of sound. Downstairs, at ground level, people walk in and out, tracking mud and dirt over the steel-grey tiles, marring the cool perfection of the building. There are no comfortable chairs in the lobby." (218)

- she makes and passes judgment of people and situations immediately and without care/regard for others

- this reveals so much of Charlotte's complex and distant relationship with her mother → Charlotte can acknowledge that her mother is perfect, efficient, excellent at what she does, and she says this all without any mention of warmth or appreciation for her mother's efforts

↳ perhaps this complete idea of what kind of a person her mother appears to be is the reason why Miss Hancock wants to talk to her privately, maybe to find out if Charlotte really is suffering instead of being nurtured

discuss possible issues between characters (think of how these interactions may signify potential conflict)

contrast with:

"My dad is a warm wood stove"

you are, of course, allowed to connect yourself to the text → it's fine to add something like, "I would also describe my dad this way because he's loving and like a stove, his love warms our home and family"

↳ this does require interpretation

make connection between different points in the story → how do certain events influence or relate to others?

"while this metaphor is really simplistic, readers get the sense of care or love that this student attaches to his or her father"

My notes on the right-hand side are **observations** of the quotes and not explanation. You should **focus on interpretation of text** and **how it relates to what you feel are important aspects of the story**. Perhaps this will lead you to think of conflict or even theme, and you are free to make note of these observations.

- ★ **Longer does not equal better**; however, you *will* be marked on the quality and depth of your observations.
- for this second dialectical journal, you will NOT be given pre-selected topics. **It is your job to go through the story and take notes as you see fit.**
- when you finish your notes, go back and **group topics or issues that reoccur throughout the text.** Choose no more than 3 topics. Colour-code or make it obvious how you grouped topics → ** not all notes need to belong in a group as you may just have comments about what you're reading **
- you will be marked on your observations (the right-hand column)
- minimum number of notes on the right: 10 → no maximum, but as mentioned before, more is not necessarily better
- you can handwrite or type → hard copy due Monday, March 5 at the start of class.

Total: ____/30