

HONORS ENGLISH 9 - Summer 2023 READING

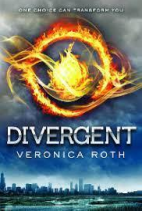

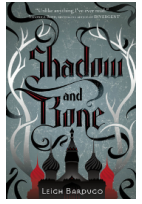
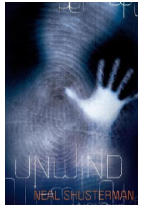
ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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Task 1: Choose One of the Following Books

You may check the book out from the public library, purchase it new or used, or find/purchase a digital copy online that you save to your personal device. Since these books are for advanced students, they may contain issues suited for mature readers; you may learn more about each book online to help guide you in your selection.

	<p><u>Divergent by Veronica Roth</u></p> <p><i>Divergent</i> is a dystopian novel set in a futuristic version of Chicago, Illinois, in which the population has been split into five factions: Abnegation, Amity, Candor, Dauntless, and Erudite.</p>
	<p><u>The Maze Runner by James Dashner</u></p> <p><i>The Maze Runner</i> is a young adult novel set in a post-apocalyptic world. The story begins in a dark metal elevator, where a teenage boy awakens with no real memories other than the fact that his name is Thomas.</p>
	<p><u>Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo</u></p> <p><i>Shadow and Bone</i> is a young adult fantasy adventure about a teenage orphan who discovers she has a power that she must use to escape intrigue and violence.</p>
	<p><u>Unwind by Neal Shusterman</u></p> <p><i>Unwind</i> is a dystopian thriller by Neal Shusterman that follows three teens on the run from a government that believes “unwinding,” or body harvesting, is an alternate solution to unwanted teens.</p>

Task 2: Read the Book

Read the book carefully with an active mind. It is highly recommended that you annotate (write marginal notes and mark passages) as you read. You may also use sticky notes or digital tools to add annotations.

Task 3: Create a Dialectical Journal-15 Entries

The term “dialectic” means “the practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” You will find that this journal is a useful way to process what you are reading, prepare for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your various writing assignments.

Your assignment is due within the first week of school. You will also have an in-class writing assignment and quiz on your book.

How to Create your Dialectical Journal

THE JOURNAL

You may type or handwrite your journal on notebook paper. You must be able to submit your work by turning in a printed/handwritten copy or turning in a digital file.

PROCEDURE

- **Quote:** As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record (copy the quote/passage) in the **left-hand column** of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- **Commentary:** In the **right-hand column**, write your response to the text (insights, questions, reflections, and analysis of each passage)

CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT (15 total)

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking, or puzzling.

- ★ Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- ★ Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen in history or current events
- ★ Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- ★ A passage that makes you realize something
- ★ Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, or motifs
- ★ Passages that illustrate a particular character or thematic idea

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT (15 entries)

Your commentary should consist of **several sentences** of specific and detailed observations along with analysis and reflection that demonstrate a high level of critical thinking and writing.

- ★ Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- ★ Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- ★ Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery). Be sure to explain the effect; avoid merely naming techniques
- ★ Make connections between different characters or events in the text to historical or current events
- ★ Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story.

EXAMPLE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

Example Dialectical Journal from *Life of Pi* by Yan Martel. Notice the direct references to text in both columns. Your entries should be of a similar length and complexity.

Quote	Commentary
<p>Attitude toward self, narrator</p> <p>“I am a person who believes in form, in the harmony of order...we must give things a meaningful shape...that’s one thing I hate about my nickname, the way that number runs on forever. It’s important in life to conclude things properly” (Martel 285).</p>	<p>Pi’s obsession with “form” and “the harmony of order” explains why religion appeals so strongly to him. He finds great importance in concluding things “properly”. Pi is essentially asking what kind of life would we be leading if, when it was over, we simply died and remained dead to rot for eternity? Pi hopes and believes that there is more. He believes what he is told about afterlives and moral judgment because he is afraid of his life ending in a pointless and almost anticlimactic manner. Pi’s obsession with closure can also be found in the founders of almost any religion to have ever been preached throughout history.</p>
<p>Attitude toward life, existence</p> <p>“I have nothing to say of my working life, only that a tie is a noose, and inverted though it is, it will hang a man nonetheless if he’s not careful” (Martel 6).</p>	<p>Pi respects the importance of work, however finds much more value in the beauty of life itself. Pi believes that to ignore the offerings of life and to focus too much on work is detrimental to one’s health.</p>
<p>Imagery to create Tone</p> <p>“A foul and pungent smell, an earthy mix of rust and excrement hung in the air. There was blood everywhere, coagulating to a deep red crust. A single fly buzzed about, sounding like an alarm bell of insanity” (Martel 127).</p>	<p>Martel paints a disturbing picture in his description of the lifeboat following the slow painful death of the zebra. He describes the air as smelling like “an earthy mix of rust and excrement”, the boat as having “blood everywhere”, and his only companion as “a single fly...sounding like an alarm bell of insanity”. Through this shockingly filthy and revolting portrayal of the lifeboat, Martel establishes a tone of absolute disgust.</p>
<p>Diction, word choice to create Tone</p> <p>“The ship sank. It made a sound like a monstrous metallic burp. Things bubbled at the surface and then vanished. Everything was screaming: the sea, the wind, my heart.” (Martel 97).</p>	<p>When describing the sinking of the Tsimtsum, Martel utilizes a variety of strong and violent words to establish a tone of disorder and fear. Martel describes the sound of the ship sinking as a “monstrous metallic burp” simultaneously noting its enormity and its violent, industrial nature. He also says that “everything was screaming” suggesting disorder and confusion.</p>
<p>Theme</p> <p>“I wept heartily over this poor little deceased soul. It was the first sentient being I had ever killed. I was now a killer. I was now as guilty as Cain...I had blood on my hands. It’s a terrible burden to carry” (Martel 183).</p>	<p>Another theme found in <i>Life of Pi</i> is the loss of innocence. Prior to his being stranded at sea, Pi is a god loving vegetarian who would never even consider eating the flesh of an animal. Once forced to end the life of another creature in the interest of prolonging his own, Pi is overcome by guilt. At this point, he has entered a phase of existence that, until his problem of being stranded is resolved, he is forced to endure, therefore making a transition from an innocent vegetarian to a hunter with “blood on my [Pi’s] hands.”</p>