

JOURNAL ENTRY

WA#1: QUOTE PONDERING

This journal entry must be at least two double-spaced typed pages (or two single-spaced pages of notebook paper). Do NOT put the traditional MLA heading at the top of your journal. Your name, AP Lit, and the date is what you need to put on the top as well as the heading "WA#1 Quote Pondering." You must type all journals. Start a file for them on your computer.

Because this is a course which relies heavily on your input and willingness to jump into discussion, let's start with your personal reaction to one of the following quotations. Choose the quote below that strikes/interests you most. Discuss what you think the quotation means literally, what it might say about society, and what personal connections you might draw from your own experiences with reading or in your own life.

Finally, it is expected that you use any applicable/relevant examples that come to mind from the summer reading texts to exemplify the main points you are making in your discussion. Before you start, be sure to read the suggested questions/ideas for consideration listed further down below the quotes.

SIDE ONE: CHOOSE ONE OF THESE REQUIRED QUOTES:

QUOTE 1:

The whole point of literature is to have sympathies, imaginative relationships with people who are different from one's self. --Irving Howe

FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:

"The whole point"--really? What other points might there be? What books have touched you, made you feel empathy, changed you? Were they usually books assigned in school or those you read at home? What differences were there between you and the characters whose stories most affected you? Were the two of you, in retrospect, more alike than different?

QUOTE 2:

When Power leads man towards arrogance, literature reminds him of his limitations. When Power narrows the area of man's concern, literature reminds him of his richness and diversity of existence. When Power corrupts, literature cleanses. --John F. Kennedy

FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:

Why "arrogance"? why "corrupts"? why "cleanses"? what connotations/possibilities are there? Did the fact that Kennedy wrote this quote have any impact on you? Negatively? Positively?

QUOTE 3:

[. . .] the universe focuses those who live in it to understand it. Those creatures who find everyday experience a muddled jumble of events with no predictability, no regularity, are in grave peril. The universe belongs to those who, at least to some degree, have figured it out. --Carl Sagan

FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:

The "universe"? why "creatures"? why "grave peril"? why "belongs"?

QUOTE 4:

On this day he (the Virginian) was bidding her farewell before undertaking the most important trust which Judge Henry had yet given him. For this journey she had provided him with Sir Walter Scott's Kenilworth. Shakespeare he had returned to her. He had bought Shakespeare for himself. "As soon as I got used to readin' it," he had told her, "I knowed for certain that I liked readin' for enjoyment." --Owen Wister

FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:

Why the incorrect grammar? How did that color impressions of him? Why did he buy Shakespeare? Enjoyment?

QUOTE 5:

Readers may be divided into four classes:

- 1. Sponges, who absorb all they read and return it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtied.*
 - 2. Sand-glasses, who retain nothing and are content to get through a book for the sake of getting through the time.*
 - 3. Strain-bags, who retain merely the drags of what they read.*
 - 4. Mogul diamonds, equally rare and valuable, who profit by what they read, and enable others to profit by it also.*
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:

Why "a little dirtied"? connotations of "strain-bags" and "drags"? Mogul diamonds? Why "mogul"?

SIDE TWO: YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE QUOTES

After you have completed your discussion on one of the required quotes, continue the journal with a a discussion of three of your all-time favorite quotes.

Jot down the first quote and then say something about why you chose this quote. Do this for each of the three quotes. Expand your discussion of the quotes to make sure you have filled at least an entire page. Maybe you want to share why they are meaningful to you, how they apply to your life, and/or how you ran across them.