

AP English Language and Composition  
Summer Reading Assignment

Please select one of the titles listed below to critically read and annotate. After reading, select the ten most significant quotes or passages from **the entirety of the book** and complete a dialectical journal for each of your ten selections. Specific instructions for and an example of a dialectical journal follow.

Ultimately, the goal of this assignment is to understand the arguments presented in the book you select and to analyze those arguments. If you are taking additional AP courses in science or social studies, then some of the titles listed may help you in those courses, too.

- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
- *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson
- *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Alexander Brown
- *The Great Bridge* by David McCullough
- *John Adams* by David McCullough
- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann
- *The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History* by Joseph M. Marshall III
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore
- *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time* by Jeff Speck
- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Grit* by Angela Duckworth
- *Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries* by Neil deGrasse Tyson

## **Dialectical Journal**

This dialectical journal is, essentially, a series of journal entries that demonstrate engagement with the text, an attempt to understand the various arguments presented, and provides a sampling of your best critical thinking.

For your selected quotes or passages, complete a chart like the example below. Please be professional – all information must be typed (12-point font, Times New Roman print). In addition, you must:

- Start your journals with a four-line MLA heading at the one-inch margin on the left:
  - First line = your full name
  - Second line = teacher's name (if you know it)
  - Third line = class description (e.g., AP English Language)
  - Fourth line = date
- Begin each dialectical journal by clearly identifying the quote or passage from the book.
- Select ten of the most significant quotes/passages from the selected book.
  - Write out the entire quote or provide parameters for the passage.
  - Justify your selection: why is it one of the most significant quotes or passages in the book?
  - Analyze and evaluate the quote or passage in full sentences – not notes. This should not just be a personal reaction or summary; rather, you should attempt to analyze the methods that the writer uses to make his or her argument and discuss the effectiveness of those methods. Your analysis should be longer than the selected quotation or passage.

Example set-up continued on next page...

Student First & Last Name  
 Teacher's Name (if known)  
 Class  
 Date

EXAMPLE

Dialectical Journal

Book Name: *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*  
 Author: David Callahan

Quotation/Passage from the text with page number	Significance of this Quote	Analyze and Evaluate
<p>I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a "bank error" that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue? I haven't played Monopoly in twenty years, but I'd still take the \$200 today. And what if a real bank made an error in my favor? That would be a tougher dilemma. Such things do happen. (1)</p>		<p>By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember—not just the game, but the excitement of a "bank error" card. He also issues the question that "banks have plenty of money" so "why argue?" This really mimics what most people would probably say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn't rightfully theirs. He moves from this game topic to a suggestion that it could really happen (which he will explain later) and suggests that it would be a "tougher dilemma." It almost seems like this could be a sarcastic remark. I think many people would just take the money. We tend to view banks as huge institutions that they will not miss a few rogue dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the "little guy" is barely getting by or may not even have a job is especially prevalent now. By this question, the author seems to be trying to get us to ask if we can even justify that type of thinking. Is this the right decision to make?</p>