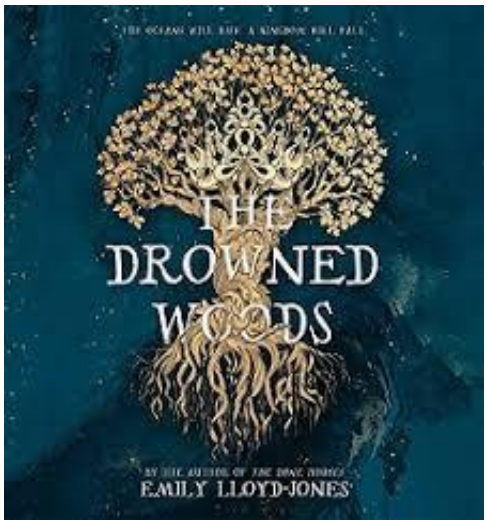
Honors Freshman Lit & Comp - Summer Reading 2026

Text and Assignment:



As part of your upcoming curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year in English, you will be expected to read **Emily Lloyd Jones' *The Drowned Woods*** and **complete 10 dialectical journal entries**. If possible, have access to your book when we work with it in September. Jabberwocky offers a 10% student discount; copies are also available at the Newburyport Public Library.

Dialectical Journals:

A dialectical journal is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. 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 your summer reading book(s). Use your journal(s) to incorporate your personal responses to the texts and your ideas about themes of the text. You will find that this is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for writing assignments.

In short, a dialectical journal consists of two columns, the left being for quotes from the text, the right being for your reflection on or response to that quote.

Your dialectical journal(s) for the book should consist of at least **ten entries** and they should include significant and meaningful quotes that are spaced throughout the book — some from the beginning, some from the middle, some from the end. For each quote in the left column (which you must cite in MLA format), you should **TYPE** a **100-200 word response using complete sentences** in the right column. Consider the following:

QUOTES This column represents your reading notes/textual evidence. **Always cite your page numbers.** Below find some possible ways of selecting quotes:	**REFLECTION** This column represents your **response** to the text. Your reflections should correspond directly to each of your QUOTES. Below find some possible ways of responding to different types of quote:
Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before (to which you can make personal and/or intertextual connections)	Explain the connection in detail.
Events and quotes that you find surprising or confusing	Try to make sense of the quotes. Pose questions for your teacher/the class.
Passages that show something important about a character or the setting	Explain in detail their significance.
Twists and turns in the plot	Your response as a reader to this new development/ make predictions about what this mean going forward
A passage that makes you realize something new	Explain what you have realized.
Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary	Look up the words, define them here and explain how they contribute to the meaning of the passage.
Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, motifs	Comment on their meaning and where you've seen them before in the text.
Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices	Explain why you think the author's choices are interesting/effective.

See Next Page for Additional Work

Interview Assignment

Instructions: After reading *The Drowned Woods*, conduct an interview with an adult in your life. Consider the following questions, but feel free to add more if they relate to the themes of the book.

Questions	Bullet Point Answers
What stories stand out as important in your life? Are these family stories, myths, stories read to you as a child, or another kind?	
Why are these stories important? What do they mean to you?	
Additional Questions:	

Reflection
Instructions: In a well-constructed paragraph using your knowledge of the book and the interview you conducted, discuss why you think it's important to tell/read stories?

Grading and Due Dates:

Your dialectical journals and interview reflections will be due during the first days of school. You should come to class on the **first day** with your work in hand. Your journals will be graded as either multiple homework assignments or a quiz grade. Please find the rubric below:

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL RUBRIC (25 points total)			
Dialectical Journal Completion (5 points)			
A	5	Dialectical journal is complete and coverage of text is thorough. There are no missing chapters/entries.	
B	4	Dialectical journal is mostly complete. There are only a couple missing chapters/entries.	
C	3	Dialectical journal is somewhat complete. There are multiple missing chapters/entries.	
D/F	0-2	Dialectical journal is not complete. Very few chapters/entries have been completed, if any.	
Dialectical Journal Responses (20 points)			
A	18-20	Detailed, meaningful passages and quotations. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Includes comments about literary elements such as diction, imagery, syntax, and how these elements contribute to the meaning of the text. Makes insightful personal connections and asks thought-provoking, insightful questions. Journal is neat, organized and professional looking; student has followed directions in the organization of journal.	**Comments**
B	16-17	Less detailed, but good quotations. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections. Identifies and interprets many literary elements, but does not explain how they contribute to the meaning. Some personal connection; asks pertinent questions. Journal is neat and readable; student has followed directions in the organization of journal.	
C	14-15	Several relevant details from the text. Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase. Some listing of literary elements; virtually no discussion on meaning Limited personal connection; asks few, or obvious questions. Journal is relatively neat; may be difficult to read; did not follow all directions in journal organization.	
D/F	0-13	Few relevant details from the text. Most notes are plot summary or paraphrase. Few literary elements, virtually no discussion of meaning. Limited personal connections; no good questions or too many questions. Did not follow directions in organizing journal; difficult to read or follow; evidence of having been hurriedly done in one sitting.	

Plagiarism:

In order to earn credit for this assignment, all work must be your own. Especially as an honors student, academic integrity is an important expectation. You may not submit the words or ideas of online study guides or those of other students. Per the Clipper Compass, plagiarizing an online source, including AI writing programs or another student's work (or sharing your own work in a way that allows for another student to plagiarize) will result in a 0 for the assignment for all students involved. No exceptions.

If you have questions before you leave for the summer, then please email Ms. Knecht or Ms. Scannell at:

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