

Dialectical Journal Assignment for *Frankenstein*

Purpose: A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply enter passages that make you think, are important, or interest you, and write your thoughts about that passage. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature. By writing about literature, you make your own meaning of the work in order to truly understand it. When you do this yourself, then the text belongs to you-- you have made it yours.

Procedure: For each chapter, you will enter two quotes and your thoughts explaining why this passage is important to you as a reader. In addition to the two entries, you will also generate a title for each chapter. The double entry format looks like this:

Passage	Page number	Explanation
"His fame rested on personal achievement."	3	All fame begins when you do something noticeable. For example, famous people such as actors and athletes build upon their careers and reputations by achieving excellence in their personal goals, as well as perfecting their public performance.

Content of Passages: What should you include: details that seem important to you, an epiphany, something significant about a character, a pattern (overlapping images, repetitions of idea, details, etc.), agreement or disagreement with something a character says or does, an interesting or potentially significant quotation, something important or relevant about the writer's style, effective usage of literary devices.

Content of Explanation: Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text; give your personal reactions to the passage, the characters, the situation; discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character, tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences; compare the text to other characters or novels; write about what it makes you think or feel; argue with or speak to the characters or author; make connections to any themes that are revealed to you; make connections among passages or sections of the work; make predictions about characters' futures. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT.**

Plagiarism: There is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the Internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Wikipedia or Sparknotes will be viewed as cheating. If you have questions come to tutoring or, e-mail me!