

## Pre-IB English One Summer Assignment

Purchase a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

### *To Kill a Mockingbird* Dialectal Journal Assignment

**Summary:** One method to get more involved with a given text is through the use of the dialectical journal. The term dialectical comes from the Greek *dialektos*, meaning “conversation, discussion.” As we read, whether or not we realize it, we have a “conversation” with the text and ourselves; we often question why the author has placed so much emphasis on something, or why the author chose the title that he or she selected, among other things. This Dialectical Journal assignment will allow you to explore those conversations and will assure that you are actively participating in making meaning of what you read. When you have finished your journal, you should have a directed summary of the material you have read. **Here’s how it works:**

➤ You may type or handwrite your Dialectical Journal. You will **divide your paper into two columns. One column will be labeled “Text” and the other “Response.”** As you read, you will record important quotes in the “Text” column.

☐ Include quotes that catch your interest or curiosity, raise questions, and/or respond to literary terms. In addition, there are other reasons to select quotations including:

**epiphany** – seeing something you did not see before character insights – motives, symbolic representation, reasons for conflicts/relationships recognition of patterns – overlapping images, repetitions of idea, details structural or content shifts author's **style** – use of certain words, phrases, sentence structures, tone, etc.

**effective use of stylistic/literary devices** – interpret imagery, figures of speech, symbols, allusions, etc. and give possible explanations realization of a deeper meaning or theme that is running throughout the novel

Remember to **include an in-text citation for each quote** you include.

➤ In the “Response” column, you should record your responses to the quotes you have chosen. You may annotate, or note, any questions, comments, and ideas next to the excerpt from the text that piqued your interest or curiosity, or addressed the literary terms or questions given. These entries will be used, in class, to raise questions that you may have had or to indicate thoughts and reflections that occurred while you were reading. In essence, the “Response” section becomes an “intellectual history” of your reading.

#### **Assignment Details and Due Dates:**

➤ Each journal entry must be accompanied with full and original commentary (a detailed response). The journal is a map of your thoughts; therefore, incomplete commentary demonstrates incomplete thought.

➤ Each quote equals one journal entry. The dialectal journal entries are assigned as follows:

Two journal entries for Ch. 1-5

Two journal entries for Ch. 6-8

Three journal entries for Ch. 9-11

Three journal entries for Ch. 12-15

Three journal entries for Ch. 16-19

Three journal entries for Ch. 20-24

Three journal entries for Ch. 25-28

Three journal entries for Ch. 29-31

Please see the examples on the following page.

Text	Response
<p><b>Quote 1</b>  “Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square. Somehow, it was hotter then: a black dog suffered on a summer’s day; bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. Men’s stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o’clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum” (Lee 5).</p>	<p><b>Response 1</b>  This quote is a wonderful example of imagery. Lee’s use of description really makes the reader feel how hot Maycomb was in Scout’s childhood. Her use of tone also depicts the insufferable heat of the late afternoon.</p>
<p><b>Quote 2</b>  “Jem gave a reasonable description of Boo: Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch, that’s why his hands were bloodstained – if you ate an animal raw, you could never wash the blood off” (Lee 13).</p>	<p><b>Response 2</b>  This quote demonstrates the “supernatural” air in which the children view Boo Radley and the mystery surrounding him. I bet they devote so much time discussing Boo in the first chapter because he’s going to be an important character in the novel.</p>
<p><b>Quote 3</b>  ““Recon I have, “said Walter. “Almost died first year I come to school and et them pecans – folks say he pizened ‘em and put ‘em over on the school side of the fence“” (Lee 23).</p>	<p><b>Response 3</b>  Here, Lee uses dialect to establish the character of Walter Cunningham and to further develop the setting of the novel.</p>

- Please record your quotations/responses in the order they appear in the novel.
- If you wish to avoid the “start and stop” method of note-taking, place small “post-it notes” in your text and type them later.
- A strong journal will have a variety of quotations and responses which cover the entire length of the novel.
- The responses should be yours and not copied from any source.

\*\*\*Plagiarism is unacceptable and will be subject to the regulations set forth by the Academic Honesty Contract.