

## Dialectic Journal Instructions and Sample

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Your journal needs to be either in a composition/spiral notebook or in an organized digital document. You may use one physical notebook for multiple texts.

If my summer reading book is *The Great Gatsby*, I would take the total number of pages (180) and divide it into 10 equal sections. You'll write a response for every section.

- $180/10 = 18$ , so every 18 pages, I will write a response.

On the page, draw a line down the center of the page. The left side of the page should be labeled TEXT and the right column RESPONSE.

In the TEXT column, copy passages exactly as they appear in the text (provide page numbers). In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE. Each RESPONSE must be at least 50 words.

### *How do you choose what passages to write down?*

Passages become important if

- i. Details in the passage seem important to you.
- ii. You learn something significant about a character.
- iii. You recognize a pattern (recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, descriptions, details, etc.).
- iv. You agree or disagree with something a character says or does.
- v. You find an interesting or potentially significant quotation.
- vi. You notice something important or relevant about the author's writing style.
- vii. You notice effective use of literary devices.
- viii. You think that the passage contributes to or reveals a theme in the novel.

### SAMPLE:

TEXT	RESPONSE
"but there was an excitement in her voice that men who had cared for her found difficult to forget: a singing compulsion, a whispered 'Listen,' a promise that she had done gay, exciting things just a while since and that there were gay, exciting things hovering in the next hour" (9)	Nick is describing Daisy in this passage with particular attention to her voice. It's the not the first mention of her voice even on this page. The way it's described at the end reminds me of a Siren, like Daisy lures men into believing things that aren't true. But it makes me wonder if Daisy is responsible for that idea or if it's men projecting their desires for parties and fun onto her.