

Holmes/BC Summer Reading 2018



Welcome, Huskies!

You are enrolled in Pre-AP English I, which will prepare you for college level work in your junior and senior years of high school. Active readers are the most successful students. Because of this, we have a summer reading assignment for you.

This year, you have a choice of two pieces of literature. Those works are:

- *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Picture Bride*, by Yoshiko Uchida

Please select one of these novels and have the reading and dialectical journaling activity completed by the end of the first week of school. Expect a summative such as a test and/or essay during class time, as well.

While you are reading, keep a dialectical journal. The “dialectic” was the method Socrates used to teach his students how to be actively engaged in the struggle to derive meaning from an unfamiliar and challenging work. In a dialectical journal, you will divide your paper into two columns. One column is labeled TEXT; the other RESPONSE. As you read, identify certain passages that cause you to stop and respond to what you are reading. Look for quotes which reveal character, suggest an important theme (author’s message), or address a motif (a recurring image or symbol).

You can choose a quote that:

- possible themes and motifs
- reveals a significant trait of a character
- contributes to the tone (author's attitude toward subject matter) of the novel

Or, you can:

- make a connection to something in your own life or experience
(This reminds me of ____ because ____)
- ask a question
- make a prediction
- make a comparison to today's culture and attitudes

Requirements:

For the RESPONSE column, you have several ways to respond to a text:

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Argue with or speak to the characters or author
- Your commentary must focus on interpretation or analysis; no summary.
- Identify the literary device (symbol, imagery, metaphor, personification) explaining its significance.
- Quotations must include a context (tell what's happening at that point in the story) as well as the chapter and page number.

You are required to have at least **twenty passages with corresponding responses**. Be sure the passages are representative of the entire book. In other words, twenty passages taken only from the first few chapters or even the last few chapters will not be acceptable.

Each text and response combination will be worth four (5) points for a total of 100 points for this assignment. Points will be deducted on the TEXT side for failure to document accurately and completely according to the model provided. Points will be deducted on the RESPONSE side for superficiality and incompleteness. Each response must be at least 40 words in length.

Dialectical Journal Example: Below is sample entry to use as a guide.

Text:

Ch. 1, pg. 1 - “The bees came the summer of 1964, the summer I turned fourteen and my life went spinning off into a whole new orbit, and I mean whole new orbit. Looking back on it now, I want to say they showed up like the angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, setting events in motion I could never have guessed.”

Response:

This paragraph indicates the setting, the summer of 1964, when the author was a 14 year old girl. She is religious (as per the biblical allusions) and something profound happened to her that put her in a “whole new orbit.” I wonder what the bees had to do with the profound change in her life.

Our learning objectives for these novels:

How to reflect on understanding while reading to monitor comprehension.

(Fig 19.A)

How to make complex inferences about text and use textual evidence to support understanding. (Fig 19.B)

Figurative language, particularly imagery and metaphor, in a novel (2.C)

Figurative language of a novel is connected to the historical and cultural setting of the work (2.C)

Methods of characterization, including character foil (5.B)

Types of point-of-view found in novels and the effect of a first-person narrator in a novel (5.C)

How to recognize themes in a novel (7.3A)

The ways genres of texts with similar themes shapes meaning (2.A)

Should you have questions about the reading assignment, please contact the Department Coordinator at: 210-397-7000.

We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

