

**Center for Communications**  
**Summer Reading List**  
**2015-16**

**Ninth Grade Required Books**

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| ◆ <i>October Sky</i>         | Homer Hickam       |
| ◆ <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> | Lorraine Hansberry |
| ◆ <i>The Pearl</i>           | John Steinbeck     |

**Ninth-Grade Summer Reading Assignment: Dialectical Journal**

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 texts that you read. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read and to utilize higher level thinking skills. This assignment will help prepare you for the work we will do next year in class; you will find that it is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for writing assignments—all skills that will be very important in ninth grade English.

**Directions:** For your three summer reading assignments, you must complete a minimum of 12 entries for EACH of the books. Use the following format to create your journal. You may keep your journal in a spiral notebook, composition book, or on loose-leaf paper. Your journal is due **Monday, September 14**. There will also be a summer reading test the second week of school.

**Students are expected to complete this assignment independently without use of external sources including friends, reference books, and Internet sources. For questions on this assignment, please email Mrs. Kim Hodges at [kshodges@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:kshodges@henrico.k12.va.us).**

See the next page for sample entries.

## Sample Dialectical Journal Entry Examples

<p><b>Quote from source with page number</b></p> <p><i>A quote is word for word from the text.</i></p> <p><i>It can be a phrase or an entire sentence. If you need to quote an entire passage, you may use an ellipsis (...) to quote only the part that is most important to what you want to talk about.</i></p>	<p><b>You must comment on the quote beginning with one of the following stems:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This quote reminds me of...</li> <li>2. I agree or disagree with the author's point because...</li> <li>3. This character reminds of...</li> <li>4. I predict...</li> <li>5. This quote is important to the meaning of the story because...</li> <li>6. The setting here is important to the story because...</li> </ol> <p><b>Your responses should be at least three complete sentences. Use each of the stems at least one time; none of the stems should be used more than three times.</b></p>
<p>"A book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it. Take the shot from the weapon. Breach man's mind." (page 125)</p> <p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i></p>	<p>This quote reminds me of the movie <i>Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade</i>. In the movie, the Nazis are burning all of the books trying to shut out any ideas that they don't agree with. The characters in the book think that books, a vital source of knowledge, must be destroyed because they are so dangerous and might make people actually think.</p>
<p>"We must all be alike. Not everyone born free and equal, as the constitution says, but everyone made equal." (page 99)</p> <p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i></p>	<p>I disagree with this quote because I value people who are different because of religion, culture, language, looks, etc. What is equal? For the second part of the quote, I agree. Everyone can be equal; however, if I work harder than someone else, I should be rewarded.</p>