

English III & English III Challenging Americans Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

English III and English III Challenging Americans students will choose one of the following:

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls **OR**

Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall

Students will then complete a dialectical journal that must be typed and brought to class on the first day of school, **August 14, 2019.**

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, students divide their 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.

Example [Students may vary the format but not the required content]

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

TEXT (2 points)

1. “My suffering left me sad and gloomy. Academic study and the steady, mindful practice of religion slowly brought me back to life. I have kept up what some people would consider my strange religious practices. After one year of high school, I attended the University of Toronto and took a double-major Bachelor’s degree. My majors were religious studies and zoology” (Martel 3).

RESPONSE (2 points)

1. What a puzzling opening line! What “suffering”? It makes me curious immediately. The narrator follows this statement with the solution to the problem of “suffering”: religion. OK, as a devout Catholic, I understand the comfort of religion, but the narrator further confesses to “strange religious practices.” I do not personally define my religious practices as “strange” so I am even more intrigued. And after only one year of high school, college? The narrator must be brilliant. The final coup de grace is the combined majors of religious studies and zoology, such a bizarre combination! The first chapter of a novel should provide the reader with the basics: introduce protagonist, establish setting and time, and grab reader’s attention with problem or conflict. OK, Yann Martel, you’ve got my attention... (128 words)

You will use this model to create your dialectical journal, and your teacher will use this model to evaluate your work. Please notice in the TEXT column you cite verbatim/word-for-word/direct quote passages from the novel and include quotation marks and page numbers according to MLA format. **This document must be TYPED and PRINTED.**

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

1. Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text;
2. Give your personal reactions to the passage;
3. Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or characters;
4. Tell what it reminds you of from your own experience or from other literature you have read;
5. Write about what it makes you think or feel;
6. Argue with or speak to the characters or author.

Please DO NOT simply summarize what you are reading. We want you to become an ACTIVE reader where you are responding to the text.

You are required to have at least twenty-five (25) passages with corresponding responses. Be sure the twenty-five passages are representative of the entire book. In other words, twenty-five 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 (4) points for a total of 100 points for this assignment which will count as a test grade.

- Points will be deducted on the TEXT side for failure to document accurately and completing according to the sample provided.
- Points will be deducted on the response side for superficiality, vagueness, or incompleteness.

Each response must be at least 60 words in length. The WORD COUNT must be listed in the journal response.

Dialectical Journals are due the first day of class, August 2019. Failure to do this assignment may result in failing the quarter.

**AP English III
Summer Reading and Writing Assignments**

AP English III students will read the following:

1. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J Gaines
2. *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell
3. *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis

Writing Assignment *A Lesson Before Dying*:

Set up a two column Word document. Find at least 5 quotations that use different registers of speech or writing. For each quotation, explain how the diction and register choices help to shape the character of the person you quoted. See the example below.

Quotation: please cite in MLA form.	Analysis of 100 words or more. Please use Formal Standard Written Academic English (FSWAE.)
“I don’t want them to kill no hog” (13).	Miss Emma asks Grant, early in the novel, to spend time with Jefferson, whom the court has sentenced to death. Her diction indicates that she lacks formal education in its double negative “don’t” and “no hog.” The same phrase indicates that she understands that the justice system wants to execute a human being, and that she disapproves of the punishment for Jefferson. The use of dialect allows Gaines to present Miss Emma as both uneducated and deeply intelligent. As with any text, the author’s choice of register reveals character. In this specific case, Miss Emma presents herself as a forceful woman. Grant may think he does not want to give in to her request, but he will not refuse Miss Emma’s wishes easily. WC: 119

Writing Assignment for *Outliers*:

The last line of the introduction serves effectively as a thesis for the entire text. It reads, “I want to do for our understanding of success what Stewart Wolf did for our understanding of health” (11).

I want you to show how Gladwell constructs his arguments to support the above thesis. Again, use a two column document, and show what quotations move forward the thesis. You must use at least 5 quotations per chapter. Note use of Aristotelean appeals to logos, ethos, or pathos. Note use of rhetorical devices such as parallelism, repetitive devices, figures of speech, and persuasive devices. My interest is that you are able to deconstruct an argument, and each of Gladwell’s chapters serves as an argument working towards proving his thesis.

So, you must:

1. Read the entire work, including the introduction.
2. Choose 3 chapters from “Part One: Opportunity,” and you must find 5 quotations from each of these 3 chapters for the left column, cited in MLA form. (That is 15 quotations for “Part One.”)
3. Choose 2 chapters from “Part Two: Legacy,” and you must find 5 quotations from each of these 2 chapters for the left column, cited in MLA form. (That is 10 quotations for “Part Two.”)
4. I’m looking for only a sentence or two of explanation for each technique of argument that you list in the second column.

Example:

Quotation from “The Matthew Effect”	Technique of Argumentation
“Success in hockey is based on individual merit—and both of these words are important (17).	Ethos: as a society, we like to believe we reward individual merit and hard work. As a method of setting up his argument, Gladwell calls on what he believes are shared ethical ideas.
“Or are they?” (17).	Gladwell follows the previous idea with a rhetorical question to ask his readers to examine his argument that what society perceives as individual merit may not, in fact, show merit, but rather something else.

Writing Assignment for *Moneyball*:

As you read *Moneyball*, keep in mind the ideas about the use of data in both *Outliers* and *Moneyball*. When school starts, our first writing assignment will have to do with how the concept of big data has influenced society in the past two decades. You may want to annotate the text for ease in finding references to data use for the writing we will do to start the year.