

# Contemporary Literature & Advanced Composition

## Summer Assignment 26-27: Dialectical Journal Instructions

A dialectical journal is a place for you to record and react to important moments in the text. You should find these naturally as you read. When you do, copy the quote into your journal, cite the page number, and write a few sentences of notes where you explain your thinking as it relates to what you have read. Follow the procedure below for guidance on what you should be looking for within the text. The novel your assignment will focus on is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.

### Procedure:

1. As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart. In the middle column, include the proper MLA citation for the chosen quote.
2. In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage).
3. Label your responses using the following codes and colors:
  - a. **Q:** any **questions** you have in regard to the passage or quote in particular
  - b. **C:** **connections** to your life, another text, or the world in general
  - c. **P:** **predictions** you want to make in reference to the passage
  - d. **R:** **reflect** deeply on the passage and what it means in the broader sense; consider any conclusions you can come to about human nature, etc.
  - e. **F:** important **figurative** language, themes/motifs, or symbols that catch your eye or seem to develop throughout the text
4. Your journal should have a minimum of **40 entries per text**.

### Sample Dialectical Journal Layout:

Quote:	Citation	Analysis
<p>“All men hate the wretched; how, then, must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things! Yet you, my creator, detest and spurn me, thy creature, to whom thou art bound by ties only dissoluble by the annihilation of one of us. You purpose to kill me. How dare you sport thus with life? Do your duty towards me, and I will do mine towards you and the rest of mankind. If you will comply with my conditions, I will leave them and you at peace; but if you refuse, I will glut the maw of death, until it be satiated with the blood of your remaining friends.”</p>	<p>Shelley 96</p>	<p>F - connecting to themes/topics of the responsibility of creation and the idea of nature versus nurture The creature views Victor and mankind negatively due to his constant mistreatment since his “birth” and feels that Victor has not done his duty towards him (help, teach, take care of him, etc.). The creature can now only react aggressively towards Victor and demand what he wants since that is all he knows.</p>
<p>“For the first time, also, I felt what the</p>	<p>Shelley</p>	<p>Q - How is Victor just now considering the</p>

<p>duties of a creator towards his creature were, and that I ought to render him happy before I complained of his wickedness. These motives urged me to comply with his demand.”</p>	97	<p>duties of bringing another life into the world? Although he explains his thought process earlier in the novel, it’s hard to empathize with him as a character...</p>
--	----	---