

AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading 2024

1. AP Lit Dialectical Journal

Please choose a notebook that will be your dedicated AP Lit Dialectical Journal for the year. “Dialectical” means “relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions.” As we read poetry, short fiction, dramas and novels this year, you will be asked to keep track of your thinking in a specific way in your dialectical journal.

You may choose a simple composition-style notebook. You will begin using this notebook for your summer reading assignments. The overall goal of keeping this type of journal is to record what you are thinking as you are reading, so that your impressions, questions, and ideas about the text are not lost.

2. You will choose **two** books from the **Extraordinary Lives** list provided. One book **MUST** be a female author, while the other book **MUST** be a male author.

Extraordinary Lives Assignment:

Please take notes in your Dialectical AP Lit Journal as you read both selections. Think of this journal as a place for you to interact with the text. As we read, we often have “Aha!” moments. Something on the page really resonates with us for some reason. Copy that portion of the text, citing its page number. Use of ellipsis (...) is fine for long quotes. Then, record your thoughts about the language use, a word that confuses or intrigues you, plot, characterization, theme, allusion, a personal interpretation, a connection to other texts or to your own life.

Think in terms of:

- Quotes (with page number numbers)
- Questions
- Characters
- Thematic ideas

When you return to school, be prepared to submit your journal on the first day of school. You should have at least 8 pages of notes (4 pages per **Extraordinary Lives** text). The notes are to be written in complete sentences. Bullet points are not allowed.

A sample journal entry looks like:

Quote	Notes
“But hidden drawers, lockable diaries and cryptographic systems could not conceal from Briony the simple truth: she had no secrets...Nothing in her life was sufficiently interesting or shameful to merit hiding; no one knew about the squirrel’s skull beneath her bed, but no one wanted to know.” (5)	The author is creating a unique character here. He shows her need for order, her creativity, and the fact that Briony thinks about her own existence in a way that makes me feel sympathy for this young girl and curiosity about her keen intelligence and sense of purpose in life.

3. You should also read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. Any edition is fine. Please read thoughtfully and take notes (a total of 8 pages in your AP Lit notebook). The notes are to be written in complete sentences. Bullet points are not allowed.

For the notes, think in terms of:

- Quotes (with page number numbers)
- Questions
- Characters
- Thematic ideas

When we return to school, we will discuss the big ideas of AP Lit (character, setting, structure, narration, figurative language, and literary argumentation). You will also write an in-class essay on this novel to begin to get familiar with the kind of writing that is expected of you on the AP Lit exam.