

AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading 2026

1. AP Lit Dialectical Journal

“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. Think of your dialectical journal as a written conversation with what you are reading; an “outloud” reflection on paper, if you will.

Please choose a notebook that will be your dedicated AP Lit Dialectical Journal for the year. A 5-subject composition/spiral notebook is ideal. 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. The journal will be turned in for a grade on the first day back to school.

2. You will read two books from the **Around the Summer in 80 Days** list provided. You **MUST** read **Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility***. The second book is your choice from the list provided.

3. Around the Summer in 80 Days Dialectical Journal Assignment:

Please take notes in your Dialectical AP Lit Journal as you read both novels. 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, anything that pops out at you.

Think in terms of:

- Quotes (with page number numbers)
- Questions
- Character Development
- Plot Development
- Thematic ideas

You should have at least 8 pages of notes for the summer reading texts (4 pages per **Around the Summer in 80 Days text**). The notes are to be written in complete sentences. Bullet points are not allowed. Students with typing accommodations may type entries.

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.

4. Additionally, you will follow the requirements for the Summerlogue. These entries should be included in your designated AP Lit Dialectical Journal. Please have a designated “Summerlogue” section that is separate from the “Dialectical Journal” entries.

Summerlogue requirements are detailed below:

- All entries must be clearly labeled with the date they were written.
- Entry categories include:
 - Experiences
 - Work
 - Service
 - Family
 - Spiritual/Prayer/Meditation
 - Friends
 - Fun
- 3 entries per category (18 entries total)
- Minimum 10 lines per entry
- Complete sentences (no bullet points)
- “I” is acceptable as this is their personal experience
- Illustrations/photos in addition to written entries are encouraged and appreciated, but NOT required!
- Summerlogues will be turned into English teachers on the first day of school (August 18)