Summer Reading Fiction Book Assignment: Double Entry Journal

A double entry journal shows your conversation with the text. It enables you, the reader, to respond to the book in a personal and analytical way. Furthermore, it forces you to pause and reflect on what the author has communicated, thereby strengthening your reading comprehension ability. This is what good readers do naturally.

DIRECTIONS

Students Entering Grades 5 & 6: You will be required to make a minimum of **8 double journal entries.**

Students Entering Grades 7 & 8: You will be required to make a minimum of **10 double journal entries**.

*1. Use the **left-hand side** of the page to record a sentence or sentences from the text. Copy the passage exactly as it is written. It can be a key event, interesting language, a critical fact, a main idea, a problem, a character sketch, etc. Remember to write the page number.*

*2. Use the **right-hand side** of the page to respond to your selected passage. You can respond with feelings, questions, connections, explanations, theories, analyses, predictions, etc. Remember to respond with at least two (2) clear and complete sentences. You may use the sample sentence starters.*

Sentence Starters for Right Side - My Response

- ★ *These words/phrases make me think of . . .*
- ★ *This passage reminds me of a time when . . .*
- ★ *I had a similar conflict/situation when . . .*
- ★ *This passage reminds me of ____ in another piece I have read (tell what it is you read) . .*
- ★ *The author has created a ___ mood by . . .*
- ★ *The most important part is . . .*
- ★ *I infer . . .*
- ★ *I am confused*
- ★ *I previously thought ____about ____. Now my thinking has changed because . . .*
- ★ *Why . . .*

Example:

What the Text Says		***My Response***
"The flower garden was strained with rotting brown magnolia petals and iron weeds grew rank amid the purple phlox…the last graveyard flowers were blooming."	***Page 1***	From the onset of the story, James Hurst creates the image of death through his description of the dying flowers and specific reference to the "graveyard flowers." The tone is heavy and dark creating a sense of foreboding. It is clear that the beauty of the story may be part of the sadness. I think this means someone might be sick or die.
"A brilliant moonbeam was slanting through a gap in the curtains."	***Page 9***	Since the author used the word slant, I picture a sharp ray of light into the room instead of it just shining. The details help me picture the room and I wonder if the moonbeam is keeping the character awake. If so, then maybe they are troubled. I hope to find out in the next chapter.

YOUR NAME:_____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

# of pages: _____

What the Text Says (Direct Quote)	*Page #*	*My Response - your thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, questions, etc...*
1		
2		
3		
4		

YOUR NAME:_____

Book Title: _____

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What the Text Says (Direct Quote)	***Page #***	***My Response - your thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, questions, etc...***
5		
6		
7		
8		

YOUR NAME:_____

Book Title: _____

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What the Text Says (Direct Quote)	***Page #***	***My Response - your thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, questions, etc...***
9		
10		