

## ***Sweet Potato Pie DIALECTICAL JOURNALS***

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the text that you are reading. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the text.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the **left-hand column** the chart (*ALWAYS include page numbers*). Choose **NINE passages**, one from **each page** of the book.
2. **In the right column**, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)
3. You **must label your responses** using the following codes: **\*Use each label at least once!\***

**(Q) Question** – ask about something in the passage that is unclear

**(C) Connect** – make a connection to your life, the world, or another text

**(P) Predict** – anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage

**(CL) Clarify** – answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction

**(R) Reflect** – think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story/author of the article. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?

### **CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT: (LEFT HAND COLUMN)**

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling.

For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

### **RESPONDING TO THE TEXT: (RIGHT HAND COLUMN)**

You can *respond* to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be **specific and detailed**. You can write as much as you want for each entry. You can choose to type and save your journals, or you can write by hand.

#### **Basic Responses**

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

#### **Higher Level Responses**

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ pd. \_\_\_\_\_

**Before Reading:** Answer these questions.

Name one food that reminds you of a special holiday, event or moment from childhood.  
**Why is this food so special? How does the food tie with the strong memory of that moment?**

What does it mean to "**be somebody?**" What is the connotation behind this phrase?

Passage/ Page	Dialectical Response
p. 1	Response label _____
p. 2	Response label _____
p. 3	Response label _____
p. 4	Response label _____

p. 5	Response label _____
p. 6	
p. 7	
p. 8	
p. 9	