



May 2009

Dear Parents and Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

We are eager to meet you in our sophomore English classes. This summer you are required to read **one** of the novel choices below, in preparation for English 10.

*A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines  
*Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers  
*The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd  
*The Golden Compass*, by Philip Pullman  
*More Than You Know*, by Beth Gutcheon

For this book you will keep a double-entry journal (an example is attached).

- You will be required to make **10** double-journal entries for the book you choose.
- You will put quotes on the left side and reflective responses on the right side of each page.
- You may choose the chapters from which to journalize, but they must be representative of the **entire novel**. (For example, they all may not be from the beginning of the novel, but must be interspersed from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.)
- Please remember that these are to be *your thoughtful reactions* to the characters, conflicts, issues, etc. for that chapter, **not summaries**.

**You will turn in the journal upon your return to school in August. Your summer reading assignment will be your first major grade for the first quarter.**

**Also, if you are enrolled in any English elective, please consult the full list of summer reading titles as an additional book is required.**

Enjoy your summer and your preparatory reading and return in the fall ready for the challenges of an exciting new school year!

Sincerely,

Sophomore English Teachers

## Double-Entry Journal: Models

### Responding to the text:

Draw a line down the middle of a page. On the left side, copy a *meaningful* passage from the book you're reading – perhaps a bit of dialogue, a description, or a character's thought. (Be sure to note the number of the page from which you copied it – you may want to find it later.) On the right side, write your response to the quotation. Why did you choose it? Did it puzzle you? Confuse you? Strike a chord? What does it mean to you?

### Examples

Quotation	Response
"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." <b>(Page 1)</b>	This is the first sentence of the book. When I first read it I thought the writer was serious – it seemed like something people might have believed when it was written. Soon I realized she was making fun of that attitude. I wondered how much of the novel was written in that same way, and if I would understand the author's humor. It is not too obvious. Will the entire story be about finding a good wife or husband?

(example is from *Pride and Prejudice*)

"But to her unaccustomed vision the stretch of water behind her assumed the aspect of a barrier which her unaided strength would never be able to overcome." <b>(Page 89)</b>	The distance between Edna and the shore symbolizes the distance she will put between herself and society, if she embarks on her quest for self. In this moment, such a distance seems insurmountable and dangerous to her, which speaks to how difficult her personal journey is going to be. I wonder if she will ever overcome her fear and accomplish learning to swim. At this point, also, I see this as a symbol of her independence and, perhaps, freedom from her stifling life as wife and mother in society as it exists in her day. But what can she do about it?
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(example is from *The Awakening*)

