

Dystopian Literature Unit Dialectical Journal

What is a dialectical journal? A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. A dialectical journal is a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading).

What are we looking for while reading our text? While you read your dystopian novel I want you to look for two kinds of entries:

- Elements of Dystopian Literature/Societies: the generic characteristics that we can find in any dystopian book.
- Current/historical connections: Many have claimed that there are elements of our current society that reflect dystopian characteristics. You can also use past history to fulfill this. Aspects to consider are: technology, economics, social stratification, politics, language and more. If you are reading and say to yourself, "Oh wow that reminds me of..." then you are on the right track.

How many entries do we need?

- 25 or more.
- Spread them out. Don't just cram a bunch in from the end of your book [or the beginning more likely].
- Make it a blend of literary elements and current conditions. Your ratio will vary on the book.

What do the entries consist of?

- Label each entry with "dystopian" or "current connection".
- Write the quote [or give part if it's long] and page number.
- Describe how it reflects either a dystopian characteristics or how it connects to current society.

SAMPLE

Current Connection	"Nor could any social-minded patriot sneeze at her recent somewhat unappreciated effort to maintain the purity of the American Home by barring from the motion picture industry all...who had (a) ever been divorced; ...or (c) declined to take an oath to revere The Flag, the Constitution, the Bible, and all other peculiarly American institutions. (1-2)	At one time, in America, there was a blacklist in Hollywood of people suspected of being linked to communism. Sometimes protestors are labeled as unpatriotic and may even do things that others find objectionable such as flag-burning. Many people argue over what it means to be American as that definition seems to be changing at a lightning pace.
Dystopian Characteristic	"On each landing...the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran." (1-2)	A worshipped figurehead. Constant surveillance. Even if it wasn't an actual spy device, it's a reminder that the state is watching you in general.

Keep your journal on paper or directly on an electronic document. You will be creating a chart like my sample one and turning it in that way. **NO HANDWRITTEN CHARTS ACCEPTED. Due date: Wednesday, 4/12/17 by classtime.**

We **will** be scheduling some reading/journal work days in class.