

STEM Summer Reading Assignment

For summer reading this year, the English and Science departments are coordinating to have students read a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) book. Each grade has been assigned two such books as their summer reading selection. You must choose ONE of these two books to complete, regardless of which English or Science class you will be taking next year. Copies of these books are available in the library and may be checked out (on a first-come/first-served basis) by May 23, 2019. If you do not get the book from the library by this date, or all of copies are checked out, then you are responsible for obtaining your own copy.

The book selections are:

- Ninth Grade—*The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus* by Richard Preston OR *Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics is Fueling Our Modern Plagues* by Martin Blaser
- Tenth Grade—*Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions* by Edwin Abbott OR *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements* by Sam Kean
- Eleventh Grade **AND AP Language**—*Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation* by Dan Fagin OR *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York* by Deborah Blum
- Twelfth Grade—*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner OR *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

As you read your selected book, you will be keeping a dialectical journal of that book. This journal will be due on Monday, August 12, 2019 and will be counted as a grade in both your English and Science classes for the first nine weeks. (NOTE: All entries must be typed and submitted to Turnitin.com by the due date. You should type these and save them and your English teacher will show you how to upload them during the first week of school.)

Assignment: Keep a dialectical journal over the novel as you read it. The purpose of this journal is to capture your experience while reading the book. This purpose is lost if you wait to write your entries after you've already read it. The journal must be a minimum of 10 quotes with 10 responses. These entries should include responses from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.

- **Be sure to include page # and paragraph # with your quotes.** You may use ellipses for quotes longer than three sentences. For the purpose of this assignment, a "quote" is defined as a significant passage, which strikes a chord in you as a reader and as a human being, and is not limited to direct quotes/someone's spoken words. (The paragraph # refers to that page, not the chapter.)
- Your entries/responses should be written directly opposite of the quotes. The purpose of the response is not just to explicate the chosen quote, but rather to offer relevant, telling details which exhibit your understanding of the text or show insight into human nature and themes apparent in the book. Overall, we are looking for intelligent dialogue, which displays evidence of synthesis and understanding about the text and its components.
- Each response must be typed in complete sentences and use a minimum of 100 words (approximately two short paragraphs or one well-developed paragraph with relevant, telling details). Remember to have at least 10 quotes and 10 responses total!

Dialectical Journal Example

Don't focus on the word count, be analytical and show depth in your responses. Don't just SUMMARIZE!!!! Prove a point and support it with examples from the book.

<p>Quotes, passages, or sentences go on the left side with a page number.</p> <p>Example from: <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> by Ernest Gaines</p> <p>“I was there, but I was not there.” (Page 1, paragraph 1).</p>	<p>Your responses to those quotes, etc. go on the right side.</p> <p>From this quote the author reveals the main character's inability to make a clear connection with the here and now. He was physically there, but yet, he wasn't mentally because he didn't want to be. The issue he was dealing with was one that he wanted to separate himself from and ignore. By ignoring the actions in the courtroom, it shows that the main character is trying to divide himself from his family, his race and his community. Also from this quote it is obvious that the main character is going to have difficulties dealing with confrontation and the struggles of being a black man in the South during the 1940's, the time in which this novel is set. (word count 118)</p>
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