

Summer reading assignments for Pre-AP/Honors Literature 2012-2013

Summer Assignment: Read and complete a double-entry reading journal for your chosen book.

As you read, keep a double-entry journal. The journal must have **twenty entries**, and will be due **as soon as school resumes**. Completing the assignment correctly will be worth the majority of the assessment, but we will also look at the quality of the quotes you choose and the depth of your response.

These journals should be typed. If you hand write, make sure that your entries are neat—very neat.

Divide the paper in two columns. In the left column, write the text (quote) from your book that you find significant. **Include the page number in parentheses**. In the right column, write your response to the passage. You may want to include some plot summary to remind you what is happening, but most of the entry should be your commentary: a question that you have, why you think the passage is significant, your reaction to it as you read, etc. Look for important connections and ideas, character development, theme, symbolism, etc.

This example is from Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Your journal should look like this, with the same level of thought and interaction with the text. Your journal **must have twenty entries!**

Text	Response
"Her past had been like her present—intolerable—and since she knew death was anything but forgetfulness, she used the little energy left her for pondering color" (4).	The character of Baby Suggs fascinates me. I understand that she is Sethe's husband's mother and that she is dead at this point in the novel. I find this sentence especially telling about her life because as a slave in the past her life has been "intolerable," and even now that she is a free woman living in Cincinnati, Ohio, her life is still miserable. I feel certain that I am going to learn a great deal more about this woman, and I look forward to her history. I am curious what caused her to stop thinking about color, and why she focuses on color now at her death. Maybe that has something to do with the presence of this ghost or spirit—I wonder if that ghost is Baby Suggs' presence.
"How come everybody run off from Sweet Home can't stop talking about it? Look like if it was so sweet you would have stayed" (13).	I like the character of Denver—I think Morrison is going to use her to speak the truth when others are afraid to. She asks questions that I have been asking—especially this one. So far characters refer to Sweet Home with very positive memories. The slaves appear to have been treated kindly there by Mr. & Mrs. Garner—but I think bad things happened after Mr. Garner died—but I don't know the details yet. I assume Morrison will reveal them as I read. I like how Morrison named the plantation in Kentucky—Sweet Home—because it was neither sweet nor home—if you were a slave.