***The Outsiders* Dialectic Journals**

As you read through *The Outsiders*, you will be keeping a dialectical journal of significant quotes and passages from the text, accompanied by your commentary. This tool may be used to aid you in class discussions, quiz preparation, and organizing your written responses for the final unit test.

The quotes and passages you select should be significant in some way, and they should relate to one of the following literary concepts: Characterization, Conflict, Personal Connection, Allusion, Theme (there are several themes in the book), Symbolism, and Author’s Style. We will be discussing these concepts in class.

You must complete a total of ten journal entries. The quotes you select should be spread from throughout the novel, not all from the same chapter or section of the text. Your final journal can be typed or handwritten, as long as it is legible, neatly organized, labeled, and easy to follow.

Your journals should include the text (including the MLA citation), response, and literary concept.

Sample Entry **from *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| TEXT | RESPONSE | LITERARY CONCEPT |
| Since Mom and Dad were killed in an auto wreck, the three of us get to stay together only as long as we behave. So Soda and I stay out of trouble as much as we can, and we're careful not to get caught when we can't. I only mean that most greasers do things like that, just like we wear our hair long and dress in blue jeans and T-shirts, or leave our shirttails out and wear leather jackets and tennis shoes or boots. I'm not saying that either Socs or greasers are better; that's just the way things are (Hinton, 6). | This passage relates to the theme of the hero quest in that traditional heroes in literature are often born from mysterious or obscure circumstances (e.g. Superman, Pinocchio). While Ponyboy’s birth is not mysterious or obscure, it is unusual because he is a young teen being raised by his slightly older brother. The lack of, or traumatic loss of a parental figure is also common in the hero quest. This foreshadows some type of test or ordeal in which our reluctant “hero,” Ponyboy, will be called upon to do something brave or noble. Ponyboy is an unlikely, or reluctant hero as described in this passage: “…we wear our hair long and dress in blue jeans and T-shirts, or leave our shirttails out and wear leather jackets and tennis shoes or boots” (6). In the society of early 1960’s Oklahoma, a Greaser would be the least person to commit an act of unselfish bravery, as Greasers are known more for destructive, illegal and violent acts. Ponyboy defies this stereotype which also supports the conception of him as a hero in this novel. | Theme- hero’s quest |

Scoring Rubric:

**Excelling (9-10 points)** Journal entries are thorough, insightful, and thought-provoking; reflecting careful reading and appropriate selection of text examples. Comments and observations relate directly to the text examples selected and provide additional insight, inference, or deeper meaning in the text. Comments and observations demonstrate mastery of the focus literary concepts. Journal entries are neat and labeled according to the directions with few, if any, grammatical errors.

**Proficient (8 points)** Journal entries are for the most part thorough, insightful, and thought-provoking; reflecting careful reading and appropriate selection of text examples. Comments and observations relate to the text examples selected and provide some additional insight, inference, or deeper meaning in the text. Comments and observations address the focus literary concepts. Journals are fairly neat and labeled according to directions with only a few grammatical errors.

**Approaching (6-7 points)** Journal entries are somewhat insightful; reflecting a general reading comprehension. Comments and observations for the most part relate to the text examples selected and provide some additional insight, inference, or deeper meaning in the text; however, some entries are too general and/or simple paraphrases of the material. Comments and observations attempt to address the focus literary concepts, but do not reflect a true understanding of those concepts. Journals are fairly neat and labeled according to directions with some grammatical errors.

**Falls Far Below (5 points)** Journal entries may be incomplete. Journal entries for the most part reflect a general reading comprehension. Comments, observations and questions may or may not relate to the text examples selected. Entries are superficial and/or simple paraphrases of the material. Comments and observations do not adequately address the focus literary concepts. Journals may or may not be neat and labeled according to directions and do not reflect mastery of grammar.

**Incomplete, Missing (4.9 points)**