**Double-Entry Journal –Instructions and examples**

One of the best ways to engage with a literary text (story, novel, poem, play) is to have a conversation with it or its author. The DOUBLE-ENTRY JOURNAL allows you to do just that. It can be used for many purposes like: getting more deeply into the text, discovering passages for a class discussion or a short assignment, and generating ideas for literary analysis and essays.

Your journal should be set up as follows: On the left, you often put significant quotes from the text, but you can also include notes, main ideas, concepts/evidence, key plot points, illustrations, questions, text connections, unknown vocabulary, feelings, thoughts and ideas. On the right, you can choose from several different possible responses to the quote, or other things you have chosen from the text. You can do reactions, connections, the significance of a quote to the text as a whole, social questions, naming literary techniques, imitations or parodies of a text’s content or style, or passages relating to a possible thesis statement or theme. Again, you can choose whatever responses styles you want to. However,your double-entry journal should capture your thoughts, questions, and other reactions regarding the text. This journal is a way to record information and to reflect on and react to that information. It is a way of “making sense” of what you read. Your entries are expected to be meaningful and show insight into the text and what it means. Make sure you explain you reactions and reflections with support. (examples)

**The following sentence starters may help you with both columns:**

I began to think of . . .I can’t really understand . .I wonder why . . .I think . . .I know the feeling of . . .I can’t believe . . .

I noticed . . .If I were . . .I love the way . . .I realized . . .I was surprised . . .I’m not sure . . .In comparison to . . . (another work?)

This connects to . . .

**Keep the following word in mind at all times – “BECAUSE” It will force you to explain/support your**

**reactions. Do not write “summaries” of what you read. Make sure what you write has a purpose.** Again, do not write entries that have a “this happened, then that happened” pattern. I am interested in what you make of what you have read.

**Write the page numbers of quotes/passages/paragraphs in your Dual Entry Journal.** This will allow you to help facilitate class discussions when they occur. In other words, if you have written commentary on a particular passage, please be sure to note the page number. You must attempt to write a follow-up reaction for every single initial reaction. MAKE SURE you have the **minimum** required entries, as explained by the teacher, for each column for each entry. If sections are very short, you can adjust entries accordingly.

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| **Right Hand Column (text based)** | **Left Hand Column (opinion/reaction based)** |
| * Notes
* Quotations
* Main Ideas
* Concepts/Evidence
* Key Plot Points
* Possible themes
* Characterization
* Use of figurative language
* Questions
* Text to Self; Text to Text; Text to World Connections
* Unknown Words
* Feelings, Thoughts, Ideas

**Each entry should include commentary that attempts to analyze, justify, answer, predict or otherwise elaborate on what has been initially recorded.***For example, if you write something about enjoying a particular passage, you must also include reasons why you liked it and perhaps a line or two about the passage’s significance. If you pose a question,**attempt to answer it. Do not shy away from providing evidence to support your initial reactions.* | **In essence, the left-hand column becomes a running record of your interactions and engagement with the text.*** New or Additional Reactions
* How has your thinking changed in regards to something you read and then wrote about in the lefthand column?
* Additional Questions and Answers
* Additional Commentary and Evidence

**DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING IN THE****RIGHT-HAND COLUMN UNTIL YOU****HAVE FINISHED THE ENTIRE TEXT****AND HAVE PUT IT ASIDE TO REFLECT****ON IT.** |

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| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Reactions** (“*This bugs, annoys, moves ….me because…..”* ), **Reflections** (“*I wonder if*…”), **Musings** (“Hmmmm…”), **Questions** (“*I wonder why*….”) **With possible answers** (“Maybe because….”)  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Connections between:** - **Text to other Texts** you’ve read or seen (print, visual, aural – television, movies, past books you’ve read, video games, etc.) - **Text to Self** (personal connections) - **Text to the World** (larger world issues about human nature that the text makes you consider)  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Significance** in relation to piece as a whole; relating part to whole  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Social Questions** (race, class, gender issues) that the quote makes you think about  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Imitations or parodies** of text’s content or style  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Relate key passages to what you think is the central theme of the text**: this is your chance to pick the more important quotes and really dig into them!  |
| **Quote from the text and page number**  | **Analysis of author’s stylistic** choices and possible connections to theme: discussing the significance of syntax, sentence structure, word choice (diction), symbolism, literary devices (similes, metaphors, etc.)  |

You will be given instructions for how many dual entry journals you need to complete for your novel. Your quotes should show that you have read the entire section covered in your journal and that you have thought about what has been written and what it means. Carefully choose the quotes you want to use and take time with your analysis. **It should not be plot summary or basic thinking.** You will instead be graded based on:

-insightful critical analysis, -the creativity of your thinking, -the quality of the quotes you’ve selected,

-the amount of perceived effort you put into this double entry journal.

In general, you want your double entry journal to show me that you “get” this novel and that you’ve thought deeply about the novel and its larger messages and possible impact!

**Examples of entries**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **QUOTES**  | **JOURNAL ENTRIES**  |
| *“That night Papa burned the flag he had brought with him from Hiroshima thirty-five years earlier… I couldn’t believe he was doing that. He burned a lot of papers too, documents, anything that might suggest he still had some connection with Japan.”* Farewell to Manzanar Chapter 1 p. 6  | Although Papa literally burned his flag and other documents, I think the action was more symbolic. He had to have realized that Japanese immigrants could not hide because of their physical traits. So if there was no way to hide, why burn your memories? Was the burning of his items a symbol of the destruction of his dreams as an immigrant? Was he trying to convince himself that he had severed all emotional ties to his homeland? Perhaps he knew that this would be one of his final acts of independence. Later on, the U.S. government would force loyalty through the “loyalty test”… but that was forced. This was choice. I wonder what I would have done in his situation. Part of me thinks I would because it would be a way of having some control over the situation since I didn’t have control otherwise.  |
| *“It helps me understand how Papa’s life could end at a place like Manzanar. He didn’t die there, but things finished for him there, whereas for me it was like a birthplace.”*   | The Japanese internment camps were a horrible part of our American History. The U.S. government unjustly imprisoned innocent citizens and immigrants; no one can argue that these camps are a black mark on our history. However, the narrator not only examines the negative changes that affected the 1st Generation Issei –like her father- she also examines the effect the camp had on her identity as a Japanese American. The disintegration of her family led to her introduction to ideals, activities and religions outside of the traditional Japanese beliefs. Manzanar gave birth to her identity as a Japanese-American.  |

**Possible sentence starters for dual entry journal**

Why did you pick the quote? I chose this quote because…

How does this quote make you feel? Why? This quote makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

What does this quote make you think of? Why? This quote makes me think of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Why is this quote important to the story? This quote is important to the story because…

What did you like/dislike about the quote? Why? I really liked this quote because…I didn’t like this quote because…

What was unusual or surprising about this quote? I found this quote unusual because…I found this quote surprising because…

What does this quote make you wonder about? Why? This quote makes me wonder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Was the quote confusing in any way? Why? I found this quote confusing because…

Do you have any questions because of this quote? Why? Some questions I have based on this quote are \_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Does this quote relate to a theme in the story? How? Why? I think this quote relates to the theme of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the book because…

Does this quote remind you of a book/movie? How? Why? This quote reminds me of (name of book/movie) because…

Are there any social issues this quote reminds you of? Why? (ie. Race, class, culture, poverty, gender etc.) A social issue I think this quote helps us understand is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Is the quote interesting because of the author’s style/voice/use of literary devices (ie. Imagery, symbolism, metaphor, irony etc.) ? I found this quote interesting because of how the author used\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Does the quote make you think about any world issues? Why? A world issue I think this quote deals with is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because…

Are there any important words in this quote? Why? One important word this quote uses is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because….

Remember

I am looking for your insight into what you have read. Do not tell me what happened in the story. Tell me what you think about what happened and why it is important or significant. Make sure you support what you say. Give reasons, Use examples for support. Explain what you mean. Write with a purpose in mind. Read between the lines. Look for meaning in what you have read.

You will be marked on the following:

1. Insightful, critical analysis
2. Creativity of your thinking
3. Quality of quotes you select
4. Amount of work put into your reflection
5. Required amount of quotes/writing

Meeting minimum requirements is the least amount you have to do. Quality is what counts.

**Dual entry journal fill in the blank entry**

**Quote#1**: (pg # \_\_\_ Paragraph # \_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Reflection: I chose this quote because it was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What made the quote this way was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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When I read this quote it made me feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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One question I have about this quote is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_One thing I really liked/disliked about the quote

was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This quote makes me think/wonder about\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I think this quote is important to the story because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Quote#2**: (pg # \_\_\_ Paragraph # \_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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When I read this quote it made me feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_One thing I really liked/disliked about the quote

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This quote makes me think/wonder about\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I think this quote is important to the story because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Voodoo** By Frederic Brown

Mr Decker’s wife had just returned from a trip to Haiti – a trip she had taken alone – to give them a cooling off period before they discussed a divorce. It hadn’t worked. Neither of them had cooled off in the slightest. In fact, they were finding now that they hated one another more than ever.

‘Half,’ said Mrs. Decker firmly. ‘I’ll not settle for anything less than half the money plus half the property.’

‘Ridiculous!’ said Mr Decker.

‘Is it? I could have it all you know. And quite easily too. I studied voodoo while in Haiti.’

‘Rot!’ said Mr. Decker.

‘It isn’t. And you should be glad that I’m a good woman for I could kill you quite easily if I wished. I would then have all the money and all the real estate, and without any fear of the consequences. A death accomplished by voodoo cannot be distinguished from death by heart failure.’

‘Rubbish!’ said Mr. Decker.

‘You think so? I have wax and a hatpin. Do you want to give me a tiny pinch of your hair or a fingernail clipping or two – that’s all I need – and let me show you?’

‘Nonsense!’ said Mr. Decker

‘Then why are you afraid to let me try? Since I know it works, I’ll make you a proposition. If it doesn’t kill you, I’ll give you a divorce and ask for nothing. If it does, I’ll get it all automatically.’

‘Done!’ said Mr. Decker. ‘Get your wax and hatpin.’ He glanced at his fingernails. ‘Pretty short. I’ll give you a bit of hair.’

When he came back with a few short strands of hair in the lid of an aspirin tin, Mrs. Decker had already started softening the wax. She kneaded the hair into it, then shaped it into the rough effigy of a human being.

‘You’ll be sorry,’ she said, and thrust the hatpin into the chest of the wax figure.

Mr. Decker was surprised, but he was more pleased than sorry. He had not believed in voodoo, but being a cautious man he never took chances.

Besides, it had always irritated him that his wife so seldom cleaned her hairbrush.

**Dual entry journal fill in the blank entry example**

**Quote#1**: (pg # 1 Paragraph # 14/15 )

Mr. Decker was surprised, but he was more pleased than sorry. He had not believed in voodoo, but being a cautious man he never took chances.

Besides, it had always irritated him that his wife so seldom cleaned her hairbrush.

**Reflection:**

I chose this quote because it was surprising. What made the quote this way was that I thought Mr. Decker would have been killed, not Mrs. Decker, because she is the one who learned voodoo. When I read this quote it made me feel shocked because Mr. Decker turned the tables on Mrs. Decker. The part about the quote that made me feel this way was that we find out that Mr. Decker used Mrs. Decker’s hair instead of his own, which caused Mrs. Decker to be killed instead of Mr. Decker which was a shocking ending. One question I have about this quote is why did Mr. Decker not give his own hair if he didn’t believe in Voodoo? He must have at least suspected something was up otherwise why not just give her what she wanted? Maybe he did believe in it, and wanted his wife dead. One thing I really liked about the quote was how it was an unexpected twist because it makes the story more interesting. If Mr. Decker had died the story wouldn’t have had any real point, however by providing a twist it makes us think about what makes someone think about murdering someone else, and about things like karma This quote makes me wonder if Mrs. Decker deserved to die because her plan was to kill her husband, and then she gets killed instead. Perhaps it was the universe’s way of punishing her for her attempt. I think this quote is important to the story because it creates a dilemma for the reader about the actions of the characters. Both of them hated each other and in the end one of them dies. It makes me think the theme of the story might be that if you plan to do something bad to someone else then you could be the one that ends up getting hurt. Another possibility might be that you should always plan for possibilities no matter how outrageous they might seem. For example, if Mr. Decker had not given Mrs. Decker her hair instead of his then he would have died.

Example Dual Entry Journal

Rabbit Proof Fence- Introduction -Examples

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| Rabbit Proof Fence |
| Text | Reactions |
| “The trek back home to Jigalong…from the Moore River Settlement…was not only a historical event, it was one of the most incredible feats imaginable, undertaken by three Aboriginal girls in the 1930’s” pg.  | I find it hard to imagine that three young girls could not only survive such a long journey, but that they managed to get to where they were going. How did they manage not to starve or die of exposure? I don’t know if I could make it that far even if I had the food, a gps, and all the advantages of modern camping gear. They had practically nothing. They must have been very resourceful and very determined. How they didn’t just give up is beyond me. It’s not like there were roads for them to follow either. How did they know where to go? How did they not die of exposure or hunger? This makes me feel a sense of awe and curiousity. How bad must their situation have been for them to do such an unbelievable thing? They must have been so desperate to go home. They were so young and yet so brave to just face the possible consequences of getting caught and the possibility of dying on the journey. I also wonder why more people didn’t know this kind of thing was going on. Why didn’t people that know do anything about it? How could anyone treat children that way? It really makes me angry to think people could be so thoughtless and uncaring. |
| Keeper ‘N Me |
| Text | Reactions |
| “When I was a boy this here country was still Ojibway land…Losta huntin’ and trappin’, fishin’ still good in the rivers. Not like now. Everywhere there’s big expensive fishin’ and huntin’ lodges for rich Americans that don’t know the difference between a good pickerel and a bad one. Only fish for the photographs them. Us we used everythin’, every part of everythin.” P. 1 | When I read this I thought Keeper was being nostalgic and thinking about the good old days when they were able to hunt and fish as much as they wanted. He seemed a bit angry and bitter when he was speaking about the American fishermen. I think that he feels the Americans are only there to exploit the environment, and have no respect for the land because all they want to do is catch fish so they can have their picture taken. He also shows this contempt in how he describes their knowledge of fishing, in not knowing the “difference between…good…and…bad” fish, implying that their lack of knowledge indicates a disregard for the land that is providing them with their bounty. I think he has a really good point. Too many people these days just take the environment for granted. They are wasteful and ignorant in how they treat the land. As a result, we have less fish for fishing, and less animals for hunting. They view nature as something you can use and buy, instead of recognizing the need for harmony. It’s a bit depressing actually. When you consider how people used to live, and make use of everything, it makes you think, and makes you realize how selfish we often are. We have lost a lot in our modern world and I wonder if we have lost too much. |