**English IV Honors**

**Medical Summer Reading**

**2025-2026**

**Assignment #1:**



[*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon](https://www.amazon.com/Curious-Incident-Dog-Night-Time/dp/1400032717)

1. **Read the novel** and complete the dialectical journal. [PDF Online](https://englishprva.weebly.com/uploads/8/8/2/3/88239198/the_curious_incident_of_the_dog_in_the_night_time.pdf)
2. **Dialectical Journal Assignment: This must be handwritten (neatly)** (due first day of school).

The term “dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the text.

**Directions:** As you read your chosen novel, annotate, or use sticky notes to note important/pivotal passages and quotes. Then, review your annotations and choose **15 passages/quotes** that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a chart, including chapter and page numbers (should cover the entirety of the book). Identify the type of entry in the middle column. In the right column, analyze the function of the passage in the context of the novel.

**For the annotations (left-hand) column, your entries should include a variety of the following:**

1. Meaningful or striking quotations or paraphrasing of important passages
2. Confusing or difficult quotations or passages
3. Evidence of theme, tone, mood, character development, plot complication, setting significance, etc.
4. Figurative language such as metaphors, similes, personification, etc.
5. Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
6. Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before
7. Structural shifts or turns in the plot
8. A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
9. Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
10. Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
11. Events you find surprising or confusing
12. Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

**In the middle column, identify which of the 12 elements you are noting (be specific).**

**For the response (right-hand) column, you have several ways to respond to a text:**

* Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
* Give your personal reactions to the passage
* Discuss the diction (vocabulary) used
* Discuss what makes the quote or passage meaningful, striking, or important
* Discuss how theme is shown (through setting, dialogue, narration, plot, character)
* Discuss the meaning and/or effect of figurative language
* Discuss how the passage contributes to characterization

**Dialectical Journal Example: from *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Annotations (with chapter and page #)** | **Type of entry** | **Response** |
| “Cathy, this lamb of yours threatens like a bull!‟ he said. It is in danger of splitting its skull against my knuckles. By God! Mr. Linton, I‟m mortally sorry that you are not worth knocking down!” (11; 114). | 12. Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting (Indirect characterization of Heathcliff) | Heathcliff is showing his complete disdain and disrespect for Edgar. Even though Cathy has married Edgar, Heathcliff still asserts himself as a rival for her affections. He addresses Cathy first, as if Edgar were not there. The use of the animal metaphor exudes utter contempt for Edgar, as if he were a dumb animal. By using “lamb,” Bronte makes it apparent to the reader that Heathcliff considers Edgar somewhat weak. |

**Assignment 2: Short Stories + MLA Style Essay:** Instructions on how to turn this essay in through Canvas (Turnitin.com) will be provided on the first day of school.

Read the following short stories and respond to the prompt in an MLA essay format:

****[“The Masque of the Red Death”](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1064/1064-h/1064-h.htm) by Edgar Allen Poe

[“The Yellow Wallpaper”](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1952/1952-h/1952-h.htm) by Charlotte Perkins Gillman

[“Makes the Whole World Kin”](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2851/2851-h/2851-h.htm#chap08) by O. Henry

**Prompt:** Doctors still take the Hippocratic Oath, which was written in fifth century BCE, however medical care has greatly evolved over the course of human history.

After reading the short stories, **write** an **essay** in which you evaluate the characters’ choices and perceptions regarding medicine/treatments/diseases. Relate the themes present in these fictional stories to a broader context (the real world): the way society/medical professionals react to and treat ailments, illnesses, and diseases currently as well as historically. Research the topic as necessary.

In your response you should do the following:

* + Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation
	+ Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning
	+ Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
	+ Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.
	+ Include a Works Cited page
	+ Include an introduction and a conclusion (should be around 500 words).

Information on MLA Style formatting can be found by following the [link](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html) or using the QR code

*\*Please be aware that students will be held responsible for the assignments on the first day of the fall semester. If a student chooses to change the level of course or class over the summer, the student will be held responsible for the summer assignments for the courses reflected on the schedule for the first day of school. \**

*If you have questions about the assignments, please contact the Language Arts department Head, Andrea Weaver, at* *weavera@pcsb.org**. If you have questions regarding which course your student is enrolled in for the fall, please contact your guidance counselor.*