

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Unit 4: Contemporary Novel Study

Double-Entry Journal

Assignment Purpose:

A double-entry journal is a great way to keep a record of your thoughts and reactions to what you're reading, and it can be used as a springboard for your group discussions and your individual final project.

Double-entry Journal Formatting & Content Requirements:

You are in charge of your own personal journal. You will decide what to write, but there are some requirements:

1. Clearly label each entry with the chapter range (if applicable), page range and date.
Example: 1/6, Chapters 1-5 pp. 5-40
2. For each section of reading, you must have at least five entries.
3. Write in your own (school appropriate) voice. Interact with the story and the characters in it!
4. After your entries are done, answer the following question: What have you learned about yourself, your world, and/or the global community because of reading this section of your book?

Grading:

Your journal should demonstrate that you are actively engaging with the text and you are putting forth your best effort.

Journals will be collected three times (after each of your three Literature Circle meetings), and each collection will be worth 50 points. As this is a homework assignment you will be using in class the day it is due, it will not be accepted late. Here is the breakdown of how your journal will be assessed:

1. The header (see #1 above) is worth 5 points.
2. Each of your five entries is worth 7 points:
 - a. Quotation + page number: 2 points
 - b. Your Thoughts: 5 points – NO SUMMARIES OR PARAPHRASING of the text!
3. Final question: 10 points

Example:

Your journal should look something like this:

Student Name

1/6/2017

Chapters 1-5, pp. 5-40

From the Text	My Thoughts
<p><i>On this side of the journal, you will record exactly what it is that is written in the text that caught your attention. You may use ellipses (...) if necessary.</i></p> <p><i>Be sure to indicate the page from which your quote was taken.</i></p>	<p><i>On this side of the journal, write down what it is you thought when you read the selection of text you wrote down in the opposite column.</i></p>

What have you learned about yourself, your world, and/or the global community because of reading this section of your book?

NOTE: YOU WILL HAVE FIVE TOTAL ENTRIES, NOT ONE!

Please see the back of this page for more information.

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To create your double-entry journal: fold a sheet of loose-leaf paper in half length-wise. Label the left-hand column "From the Text" and the right-hand column "My Thoughts." See the list below for what to write in each column.

Some suggestions for "My Thoughts:"

- ✓ Describe and explain your **reactions** to a character, event, or idea you confronted in your reading.
- ✓ Ask **questions** about the section you read either for clarification or analysis. Has anything in that section caused you confusion? Disbelief? Anger? Ask one of the characters in the book a question, or ask the author a question! Because you'll be discussing your notes, you can (and should) come up with questions to ask your classmates about the reading.
- ✓ **Pretend** you are one of the characters in the book. Get inside that character's mind. Tell how the character feels about him/her-self, about other characters, or about the situation in the section you're reading.
- ✓ **Relate** something in the book, either a character or an event, to something outside of the book. You could make personal **connections**, connections to other books, connections to something in history or the present time, or connections to movies/films.
- ✓ Make **predictions** about what will happen next or make an **inference** about a character's actions/motivations.
- ✓ **Comment on the ethnic, religious, and cultural information you learn about the people presented in your book.** How does it help you better understand the book? How does this information impact the way you view this culture or America?
- ✓ **Identify a message (theme)** the author is trying to send using the story. Why did the author write this book?

GOOD Example: from *Under the Persimmon Tree* by Suzanne Fisher Staples

From the Text	My Thoughts
"I am no longer the girl Najmah of Golestan, that child who was afraid of leopards. I am afraid of nothing after what I've seen." Page 150	This is incredibly heart-breaking. Najmah lost her mother and baby brother because of this war, and although she's determined to find her father and older brother, she has changed so much because of this journey. It's almost as if she's completely lost her childhood. To be afraid of nothing is not something I think I could <u>ever</u> say.

What have you learned about yourself, your world, and/or the global community because of reading this section of your book?

After reading this section of the story, I've come to realize several things: I take a lot of what I have in my life for granted, I'm not really sure I know what it's like to be truly afraid, and I do not focus enough on what happens in the world. Afghanistan and Pakistan are, in my mind, these desert-like countries where oppressive governments control their citizens with violence. Based on Najmah's journey, I've come to realize that although we want the same things – a safe home where we can be with family – it's very likely citizens in these countries will *always* have to worry about whether this will be their reality, too.

BAD Example: from *Under the Persimmon Tree* by Suzanne Fisher Staples

From the Text	My Thoughts
"I am no longer the girl Najmah of Golestan, that child who was afraid of leopards. I am afraid of nothing after what I've seen." Page 150	Najmah is saying how she's no longer afraid of stuff.

What have you learned about yourself, your world, and/or the global community because of reading this section of your book?

Najmah has had a hard journey. I feel bad for her. I learned that my life is a lot easier than hers.