Dialectical Journals

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Advanced English I

Dialectical Journal Entry for Characterization

- Says- Copy a quote that reveals information about your character- an action, conversation, or description. Rephrase the quote in your own words.

- Means- Describe what is happening in the story when your quote occurs.

- State the character trait the quote reveals. Explain how the actions and words relate to the character trait you have chosen.

Roles and Character Traits for Odysseus:

Select four roles that Odysseus fills in the Odyssey. Then select one character trait for each role and do a dialectical journal entry like the example on the next slide. You may not use the character trait I use for Odysseus as a leader.

Friend/ Leader	Father	Husband	Enemy	Hero
Courageous Cautious Protective Open/ Straightforward Secretive Stubborn	Unintentionally absent Understanding Supportive Loyal Proud Role Model	Passionate Unintentionally absent Dedicated Loyal	Ruthless Cunning/ Crafty Deadly Strategic/ Tactful Vengeful Violent Impulsive Calculating	Brave Successful Quick-witted Supernaturally strong Loyal to supporters Semi-divine Prideful Stubborn Tactical

Example- Odysseus as a Leader

- Odysseus as a leader: "Friends,/ have we never been in danger before this?...Now I say/ by hook or crook this peril too shall be something we remember" (*Odyssey*, Part II. 73-81). Odysseus asks his men whether they have never risked their lives before now and that, whatever they have to do, they will come through this situation as well.

- Odysseus is rallying his men to row away from the smoke and dangerous waves that have frightened them so much that they stopped rowing.

- This quote demonstrates how Odysseus is an inspiring leader. When his men are afraid, he does not sit around letting them further endanger themselves by waiting for a situation to get better. He instead eases their minds by reminding them that they have accomplished much in hard situations before, and will get through their present challenge as well.

Says-Means-Matters

- Says- Copy the quote, provide parenthetical documentation, and paraphrase it.

- Means- Explain the meaning of the quote in the context of the text. Explain the literal meaning of any figurative language and the main idea the author is communicating.

- Matters- Explore the significance of the quote. How is the quote important in the context (why does it matter to the story). What is the overall impact that those specific words have on the reader? What important details do we learn about the topic or character?

Example- Defining Figurative Language

"He…/took from their eyes the dawn of their return." (*Odyssey*, Part I. 15-16). The narrator says that the god of the sun took away the opportunity for Odysseus' crew to see the day they would make it home.

This means that the crew would die before they could reach their homes. The crew has been traveling home for years, but made a fatal mistake in eating Helios' cattle.

This matters because it reveals the tragedy that these men would suffer. Even though these men survived over ten years of fighting, attacks by goddesses, and have seen their friends die in the effort to get home, they will die for a simple mistake that offended a god.

The Forward Slash /

- When your quote extends past the end of a numbered line of poetry (or in a play), use a forward slash to indicate where the new line begins.

- There should be no space between the slash and the first word of a line.

  - Example: "Men hold me /formidable for guile in peace and war:" (*Odyssey,* Part I. 7-8)

Ellipses …

- Ellipses are a grouping of three periods
- They indicate text a writer has omitted because it was not necessary to the context of the quote
- When choosing words to omit, keep the same general meaning and tone
  - Example: "He… /took from their eyes the dawn of their return." (*Odyssey*, Part I. 15-16)