

Dialectical Journal Rubric

	Critical Reader 5	Connected Reader 4	Thoughtful Reader 3	Literal Reader 2	Developing Reader 1
Quotations & Critical Thinking	Detailed, meaningful. Explain the quotation in terms of a larger or universal significance, as aspect of self or life in general.	Less detailed but still good. Explain the quotation in the text and show some ability to make meaning from what you read.	Few good details. Trouble including ideas about the quotation in terms of the context.	Poor if any details. Rarely includes ideas about the quotation in the written response.	Never includes ideas other than superficial interpretation.
Interpretation	Thoughtful, avoids clichés. You consider different possible interpretations from the selection.	Intelligent, discusses theme. You can explain the general significance of the text beyond the facts.	Vague, unsupported, drawn-out plot summary. Simple, superficial interpretation of the text.	Unable to understand meaning of story. Doesn't reach obvious connections to the text.	Makes few/no connections, no development.
Literary Elements & Style	Discusses diction, imagery, syntax, etc and how these contribute to meaning. Shows appreciation for the author's style, draws inferences from figurative language	Includes literary elements but doesn't explain how they contribute to meaning. Identifies several aspects of author's style, analysis supported.	Lists literary elements but little discussion of meaning. Identifies limited aspects of author's style.	Few literary elements, almost no discussion of meaning. Disregards author's style as means to further meaning.	Regards author's style as impediment to further understanding.
Questions and Connections	Insightful, personal connections, thought-provoking questions	Some personal connections, questions arise from text	Few connections, obvious question. Raises only simple questions about the text.	Few connections, no questions. You are sometimes confused by unclear or difficult sections of the text.	No attempt to question
Coverage of Text: Understanding	Covers text thoroughly. You can "read" between the lines" to carry on an on-going dialogue with the text: question, agree, disagree, appreciate, object	Covers important parts thoroughly. You can construct a thoughtful, believable interpretation of the text. Explain why you agree or disagree with text by providing support.	Covers most parts, but omits details necessary to make connections to your own past experiences, feelings, or knowledge.	Minimal coverage. You accept the text literally without thinking of different possibilities in meaning.	Little if any coverage. You find the text confusing, but you don't attempt to figure it out.
Presentation	Neat, organized, looks professional, follows directions	Neat and readable, follows some directions	Neat but hard to read, follows some directions	Neat but hard to read, doesn't follow directions	Hard to read, doesn't follow directions

A = 30 – 27

B = 26 – 24

C = 23 – 21

D = 20 – 18

F = 17 and below

