



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Analysis of Character Journal

A Guide to Using the Student Resource

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Desired a text and then, the record of that pattern (and the page numbers of the text) will be at hand when students prepare to write an essay that asks them to synthesize many parts of the text

This lesson provides a template for students when they are asked to keep a dialectical journal analyzing one or more characters in a text. Teachers are encouraged to use this model when assigning rich, multi-layered texts from their own curriculum.

This resource is included in Module 2: *Understanding Text Complexity*.

TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

he Student Resource pages provide one blank journal template so that teachers can either model how to create a journal entry for students, or pre-populate the example in the Word[®] document before printing the Student Resource pages. The sample journal entry will be most effective if teachers use the text that students are currently studying.

If students are new to tracing the development of a character through an extended work, focus students' attention on specific parts of the text they can use as the basis of their character journal.

Give specific instructions on the number of entries a student is required to have in the journal, keeping in mind the amount of grading that will be involved when students turn in the journal. A few excellent entries will give students a richer learning experience than many mediocre ones.

One incentive for students to keep a journal with accurate and insightful commentary is their ability to use the journals in writing situations. Having a journal, especially for use in a timed writing, gives students some preparation before writing an analytical essay. S



Analysis of Character Journal Student Resource

When reading a major work such as a novel, you might want to keep a dialectical journal that traces the development of one or more of the main characters in the work. In an Analysis of Character Journal, you will look for patterns of words, actions, or thoughts of a character that help you see how the character **changes**. Most major characters in an extended work change as they encounter problems/conflicts through the action of the plot. The characters' reactions to those problems/conflicts help reveal their personalities and character traits. What the character learns about human experience may reflect the meaning of the work as a whole.

In this type of journal, you might use direct quotations that reveal important character traits, but more than likely, it will be easier to summarize events that occur in the work and make inferences about how those events and the character's response to those events reveal personality and character traits.

Your teacher may give you a selection of passages to read carefully as the basis of your journal, or your teacher may want you to pay attention to the major events of the work and find a pattern of ideas within those events yourself.

Process for completing your character journal:

In the left column:

• record evidence that reveals something about the character you are studying. If you are using a quote from the text, also record the context of the evidence.

In the right column:

- make an inference (an opinion based on the evidence) about what the evidence reveals about the character.
- write commentary that explains the connection between the evidence and the characterization.

Major character:

Evidence (quotation or detail and context)	Inference—Commentary
Textual reference—	Inference about the character—
Context:	Commentary:

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