

Dialectical Notes

One of the best ways to organize your thoughts while reading fiction is to mark sections of importance. Dialectical notes allow you to catalogue the most significant references that appear in the chapters you are reading. Consider these to be annotations when you can't actually mark the book. Follow the directions below.

<u>Left Side of Page</u>	<u>Right Side of Page</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a list of sentences or phrases that best exemplify tone, theme, symbolism, imagery, etc. • Each time you are given this assignment I will tell you how many examples you need to secure. Please check homework expectations each time as this will vary. • Embed your phrase or sentence properly into an evidence sentence. Include citation with page numbers. 	<p>For each quoted piece of evidence construct a short analysis. This should be 3-4 sentences.</p> <p>This writing is what would be included in the analysis portion of an essay.</p> <p><i>Consider these questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What effect does this language, device, etc. have within the context of the passage itself? What meaning does it provide? 2. Since writing is a “craft,” what does this element argue about plot, setting, characterization, etc.? 3. What larger issue does this language leave an audience considering?
<p><u>Student Model</u></p> <p><i>The Scarlet Letter</i> opens with dark and dismal language that helps to set the scene at the prison. Phrases such as “sad-colored garments” and the description of the prison door as both “heavily timbered” and “studded with iron spikes” suggests a significant level of gloom (7).</p>	<p><u>Student Model</u></p> <p>The setting of the novel itself seems as if it will play a large role in developing the outcome of the characters and their emotions. Hawthorne’s descriptive imagery sets up a distinct tone of impending doom and fear. Describing the prison as ornamented by “spikes” seems symbolic of pain and torture. The first page of this novel makes it appear as if there is to be little hope.</p>