

Canisius High School Summer Reading 2018
English 9 and English 9 Honors

Required Reading for English 9 and English 9 Honors

Bruiser by Neal Shusterman

In addition to reading *Bruiser*, students enrolled in English 9 must choose any ONE of the following books and complete a dialectical journal as described below.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation by John Carlin

In addition to reading *Bruiser*, students who are enrolled in English 9 Honors must choose any ONE of the following books and complete a dialectical journal as described below.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

The Soloist by Steve Lopez

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Hamilton: The Revolution by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter (If you are going to see *Hamilton* at Shea's Buffalo this fall, you will want to check out this book, which includes the full libretto with footnotes and the story of this groundbreaking show's development.)

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare (Be sure to see the live performance at Shakespeare in Delaware Park this summer!)

The Dialectical Journal

The purpose of completing a dialectical journal (sometimes called a reader-response or double-entry journal) is for the reader to engage with a text in thoughtful and meaningful ways. To create the journal, divide your paper into two columns. In the left column, record passages from the text that you find interesting or significant. In the right column, record your thoughts about and reactions to the passages. Below are some guidelines for how to create an exemplary journal. See the sample dialectical journal entry on the back of this page.

- For each book that you read (*Bruiser* and the text you choose from the appropriate list above), you must have a minimum of ten entries in your journal (twenty total).
- Each passage that you record from the text should be at minimum two complete sentences.

- Each of your responses to the text should be at minimum five complete sentences and should demonstrate fully developed thoughts or reactions to the text.
- You must record the page number for each of the passages you choose. The page numbers should indicate that you have selected passages from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- Be sure to proofread for errors in spelling and punctuation. You should always hand in your very best work.
- Your work must be typed and printed to hand in.
- Your dialectical journals are due in class on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

Tips for Selecting Passages

- Look for passages that remind you of something in your own life or something you have seen before.
- Consider passages that help you realize or understand something new.
- Record any events that you find surprising or confusing.
- Look for passages that help illustrate a character or setting.
- Select passages that help to support a major theme of the text.

Happy reading!

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry

The following is a sample entry for a dialectical journal based on *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Notice that the writer comments on the imagery used, what the passage helps him realize, and how it reminds him of a significant event in his own life.

Passage from the Text	Page Number	Reader Response
<p>“—they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders—and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry.”</p>	16	<p>O'Brien provides vivid visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam had to carry each day. His simile— “they carried like freight trains”—makes me feel the physical weight of what they carried for simple survival. Considering this physical weight along with the emotional weight of worrying about loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for fellow soldiers helps me realize the intense pressures that soldiers faced. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry.</p> <p>The image also reminds me of the stories that my grandfather used to tell about his service during the Korean War.</p>