

English 12 - Honors

“Dialectical” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” So, as you read the summer reading books, *Kindred* and *The Dharma Bums* and complete your dialectical journal, think of yourself as conversing with the text in order to better process and understand the reading.

- Complete a dialectical journal like the one below for each of your summer reading books.
- Your journal must have **twenty** entries (quotes and commentary)
- Procedure:
 1. As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart. Be sure to write the entire quote from the passage word for word. Include the page number and the date the quote was recorded. In the right column, write your response to the passage (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage). Push yourself for intelligent “conversation.”
 2. Model your chart after the one below, which uses Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* as an example.
 3. This may be typed, but it’s probably better to do in a simple, “old-fashioned” notebook. If done in a notebook, work must be legible.

| Title of Work: | |
|---|--|
| Author: | |
| Quote from Source w/Page Number | Commentary: inference, insight, prediction, leverage question |
| “-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”. Pg. 2 (6/22/10) | O’Brien provides excellent visual details here of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. |