

Summer Reading Assignment

What am I reading?

English 9: *Peak* (200-level)/ *The Book Thief* (300 and 400 level)

English 10: *A Long Way Gone* (all levels)

English 11: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (all levels)

English 12/AP English courses: See your alternate assignment

What am I doing?

You will choose **6-8 passages** from your summer reading book that interests, puzzles, or impacts you.

For each passage or quotation, select one of the five entry prompts listed below and develop a response (**about 4-6 sentences per response**). Each entry prompt starter (see below) should be used at least once.

What should this look like?

This is a sample two-column journal entry in response to *Bless Me, Ultima*. Note how the passage is written in one column and the commentary is written in a second column.

| Passage from the text (with documentation) | Commentary/Response |
|--|---|
| 1. "She took my hand, and I felt the power of a whirlwind sweep around me. Her eyes swept the surrounding hills and through them I saw for the first time the wild beauty of our hills and the magic of the green river. My nostrils quivered as I felt the song of the mockingbirds and the drone of the grasshoppers mingle with the pulse of the earth" (Anaya 12). | 1. The imagery reveals Tony's sense of the earth around him. As Ultima touches his hand, he is drawn into what seems to be a new and wondrous universe. This powerful experience makes Tony think that Ultima knows his fate and that they will be close. It can be inferred that their relationship will be a significant part of the novel. |

How do I start?

There are five prompt starters. Use these to jump start your writing and thinking.

1. "The imagery reveals . . . and its purpose is..."
2. "The setting gives the effect of . . . and its purpose is..."
3. "The author seems to argue . . . by doing..."
4. "The character(s) words/actions reveal ..."
5. "An interesting word/phrase/sentence/thought is . . ."

What else should I know?

- Complete your journal on a computer (bring a printed copy on the first day of school)
- Proper MLA format (author's last name and page number)
- Select passages from throughout the entire novel
- Don't summarize; instead, record your textual observations

Why am I doing this?

The purpose of the two-column journal is to record your *interactions with the text* as you progress through the book. It is a way of recording your responses, positive or negative, and to *track your journey* through the story. It offers you, the reader, a chance to respond, to ask questions, wonder, predict, or reflect on the characters, events, literary elements or language of a text.