**ELA Summer Reading Dialectical Journal**

Directions: Create a dialectical journal from the summer reading novel that you chose. You must have significant quotes for five literary concepts: setting, characters, external conflict, internal conflict, and theme. Your quotes must represent the beginning, middle, and the end of the novel. The first column of your journal should include the quotes and their page numbers; the second column should provide your detailed explanation/commentary for each quote. See the example that follows on *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quote + Author + Page number | Commentary/Explanation |
| **Setting (the time and place of a work of literature):** “Kino awakened in the near dark. The stars still shone and the day had drawn only a pale wash of light in the lower sky to the east.” (Steinbeck 1) | This very poetic description creates an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. This contributes to the portrayal of a happy life that the main character leads in the beginning of the novel. |
| **Character:** “Kino had wondered often at the iron in his patient, fragile wife. She, who was obedient and respectful and cheerful and patient, could arch her back in child pain with hardly a cry.” (Steinbeck 7) | This quote suggests that, even though Kino’s wife is a quiet and seemingly obedient wife, she has a lot of strength inside. This strength is more transparent under dire circumstances. Kino admires this quality in his wife. |
| **External Conflict (a struggle between the character and opposing force):** “’Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for ‘little Indians’? I am a doctor, not a veterinary.’” (Steinbeck 11) | Kino’s son will die if the doctor doesn’t help him, because he was bitten by a scorpion. The doctor looks down upon Kino and his people. When the doctor refuses to help, he creates an external conflict. |
| **Internal Conflict (a major, central idea in a work of literature):** “Kino hesitated for a moment. This doctor was not of his people…And as always when he came near to one of this race, Kino felt weak and afraid and angry at the same time. Rage and terror went together.” (Steinbeck 9) | Kino is faced with a tough decision: he resents the doctor, yet he has to ask him for help or his son will die. He has to overcome his hate in order to save his child’s life. |
| **Theme (a major, central idea in a work of literature):** “In Kino’s head there was a song now, clear and soft, and if he had been able to speak of it, he would have called it the Song of the Family.” (Steinbeck 2)“In his mind a new song had come, the Song of Evil, the music of any foe of the family, a savage, secret, dangerous melody, and underneath, the Song of the Family cried plaintively.” (Steinbeck 5) | Family is sacred to Kino and his people. It soon becomes obvious that the happiness of Kino’s family is threatened. It is the struggle of the main character to save his family that reveals one of the major themes of the novel. “The Song of the Family” and “The Song of Evil” are symbolic because they represent the two opposing forces that are involved in the main conflict of the novel. |

Your dialectical journal for your book will be due on **September 12, 2014**. You may use your book and your dialectical journal for your summer reading writing assessment.