

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science
First Quarter Reading Assignment 2018-2019
ENGLISH 9 GT

First Quarter Reading Assignment Checklist

Task 1:

- Read *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.
- As you read, complete at least 15 dialectical journal entries using the specified guidelines.
- Prepare **FIVE higher-level, analytical questions** about the book that will be used in a book club/seminar discussion when you return.

Task 2:

- Read either *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie **or** *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer.
- As you read, complete a vocabulary chart by identifying 30 words from within the text that you do not recognize. Be sure to follow the format provided.
- In a one-page essay, explain an idea or theme from the novel—either stated outright or implied by events—which is meaningful to you. Explain its importance to the book and why you find it meaningful.
- In the order listed above (journals, questions, vocabulary, and essay), staple your work and submit it to your English teacher by October 25 (A-day) or October 26 (B-day). Be prepared to discuss your books.

Descriptions of Texts

***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

The remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes - sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous - it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become.

***Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is circumscribed by the high walls and frangipani trees of her family compound. Her wealthy Catholic father, under whose shadow Kambili lives, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home. When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili's father sends her and her brother away to stay with their aunt, a University professor, whose house is noisy and full of laughter. This is a book about the promise of freedom; about the blurred lines between childhood and adulthood; between love and hatred, between the old gods and the new.

***Into the Wild* by John Krakauer**

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. This is the true story of one man's unconventional choices and the impact they have on others.

Accessing the Texts

Student may purchase a personal copy of the book if they choose, receive a copy at Western Tech, or borrow from their public library. All BCPS students now have Baltimore County Public Library Accounts allowing them to check out five print or audio books without late fees and unlimited digital resources. Students use their BCPS One card or student identification number to access the resources in person at all [county library branches](#), and use their student identification number for access through the [BCPL website](#).

Dialectical Journals

A **dialectical journal** is used to arrive at the “truth” of a written work through a written response to quotations from that work. As you complete your assigned reading, choose passages that stand out to you, record them, and evaluate each with your ideas, insights, questions, reflections, and/or comments. Record your responses in a T-chart as in the example provided.

What do I record?

Quotation (page #) Sentence, line, phrase, or paraphrase that:	Reaction / Response Explanation of why you chose the quotation/passage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May remind you of something; make you think or question • May reveal insight about theme, character development, etc. • May be an example of pleasing or disturbing writing style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a Connection: to personal experiences, life, other literature, etc. • Question/Prediction: Ask questions while you read and make predictions. • Interpret/Evaluate: Determine the meaning of what you’ve read; Form opinions both while you’re reading and after you’ve finished. Develop your own judgments about the characters and your own ideas about events. • Extend the Meaning: What does the quote say about all people and humanity? • Challenging the Text: Form questions about the validity of implied/explicit connections or claims, reliability of narrator, development of plot, character, style, etc.

Discussion Questions

Directions: Compose **FIVE higher level questions** that will be used in a book club/Socratic seminar when we return. You will be in charge of leading the discussion so make sure you are able to answer your own question with evidence from the text in order to facilitate discussion. Consider using the words below when forming your questions.

acquire
adopt
apply
assemble
capitalize
construct
consume
demonstrate
develop
discuss
experiment
formulate
manipulate
organize
relate
report
search
show
solve
consequences
analyze

arrange
break down
categorize
classify
compare
contrast
deduce
determine
diagram
differentiate
discuss
causes
predict
conclude
criticize
dissect
distinguish
give reasons
order
separate
sequence

survey
synthesize
challenge
test for
take apart

Vocabulary Chart

As you complete your assigned reading, identify 30 words that are unfamiliar to you. Create a chart in which you write the word, sentence, and page from where it originated. Use a dictionary to define the word, but make sure you paraphrase the definition so it is expressed in your own words. Then, write the word in a meaningful sentence of your own.

Sample Vocabulary Chart (from *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck)

Word	Page	Original Sentence	Definition	Your Sentence
broodingly	27	“Casy took the bottle and regarded it <u>broodingly</u> .”	Preoccupied with depression, morbid, or painful memories and thoughts.	After she lost the volleyball match, Cara <u>broodingly</u> walked out of the gym.

Essay

In a **one-page essay**, explain an idea or theme from the novel—either stated outright or implied by events—which is meaningful to you. Explain its importance to the book and why you find it meaningful.