**“Dialectical Journals”**

**Responding to Text/Media**

*Always make a note of the author*
*Always make a note of the title, and place in the media or text to find the passage*
*Quote can mean passage lifted from text or media AND it can mean “spoken words or thoughts.”*

**Put the passage on the Left Hand Side**

**And your Responses on the Right Hand Side**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Starters and Depth of Knowledge Responses</th>
<th>Literature Response Log</th>
<th>Sentence Starters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Why do you think the passage is important—to you personally, or to the whole story? | **Journal Responses:** Respond to:  
- Quotes  
- Characters  
- Plots  
- Beginnings  
- Endings  
- Events  
- Scenery-setting  
- Mood  
- Passage of figurative language use  
- Extended metaphors  
- Motifs  
- Symbols | • I wonder... |
| 2. Why did the author include this? | **Points for Discussion:**  
I’d like to talk to my group about...  
I’d like to ask them why they think...  
I wonder why...  
It was interesting when...  
It was interesting that...  
I think this character... | • I began to think... |
| 3. I keep seeing this word, family of words, or phrase over and over: why does the author keep using it? | Are you ready for book group?  
- [ ] I finished my assigned reading  
- [ ] I dated and labeled my responses  
- [ ] I put my best effort into my work  
- [ ] I am prepared with questions  
- [ ] I am prepared with insight  
- [ ] I marked the places I want to share/discuss. | • It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |
| 4. This is confusing to me—I am going to analyze and discuss this passage to make meaning. | **Vocabulary Ideas:**  
*The Word Whisperers*  
Add words in your journal, too:  
Words or phrases that are interesting  
Words of phrases you’re not sure what they mean  
Word or phrases that helped understand the story  
Use these words and phrases in your discussions, too.  
*Created by K.C. LOVE* | • I wonder...  
• I began to think...  
• It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |
| 5. This quote connect to another passage—(how?) | • I wonder...  
• I began to think...  
• It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |
| 6. This quote is providing me information about the plot, characters or themes—in what ways? | • I wonder...  
• I began to think...  
• It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |
| 7. I think the author is trying to express:  
- A particular idea or concept  
- Information or revelation about a character  
- Insight into plot and dynamics of the narrative  
- Share some sensory or abstract experience | Are you ready for book group?  
- [ ] I finished my assigned reading  
- [ ] I dated and labeled my responses  
- [ ] I put my best effort into my work  
- [ ] I am prepared with questions  
- [ ] I am prepared with insight  
- [ ] I marked the places I want to share/discuss. | • I wonder...  
• I began to think...  
• It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |
| 8. How does this relate to personal experiences? | **Vocabulary Ideas:**  
*The Word Whisperers*  
Add words in your journal, too:  
Words or phrases that are interesting  
Words of phrases you’re not sure what they mean  
Word or phrases that helped understand the story  
Use these words and phrases in your discussions, too.  
*Created by K.C. LOVE* | • I wonder...  
• I began to think...  
• It reminded me of...  
• I suppose that...  
• I don’t see how...  
• I like the idea...  
• I noticed that...  
• I was surprised that...  
• I can’t really understand...  
• I’m predicting that...  
• I’m inferring that...  
• Based on this quote, it seems to support...  
• I can’t believe...  
• It bothers me when... |

**Example:**

“Aurora was made out of laughter and moonlight, but I was nothing like that. Unlike my fearless sister, I was afraid of the blackbirds and thunder.” Page 8, *Green Angel*, Alice Hoffman