

# English 4 Summer Reading

1. Read **The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde**
2. While you are reading, keep a dialectical journal. The “dialectic” was the method Socrates used to teach his students to be actively engaged in the struggle to derive meaning from an unfamiliar and challenging work. In a dialectical journal, you will divide your paper into two columns. One column is labeled TEXT and the other is labeled RESPONSE. As you read, identify specific passages that inspire and incite you to pause and reflect. You must have **at least twenty passages with corresponding responses that are spread out over entire novel**. Each response must be at least 100 words in length.

**Choose passages for the following reasons:**

- a. Something is revealed about an important character.
- b. An important theme is suggested or developed
- c. An important symbol or motif (recurring image or idea) is developed.
- d. The writing is especially powerful or evocative; look for interesting syntax and figurative language, for example.
- e. An idea, event or image connects to your own life experience in some way

**Respond to the passages in the following ways:**

- a. Give a personal reaction to the text and possibly connect it to your own experience
- b. Discuss the diction or syntax used
- c. Discuss the ideas and/or actions of the characters
- d. Identify a literary device and contemplate how it’s being used
- e. Identify shifts in the plot, especially if they’re unexpected
- f. Reflect on how a character and/or theme is being developed
- g. Your response must focus on analysis and interpretation. **Absolutely, positively NO PLOT SUMMARY!**  
**You will earn no points for summary**

3. Each passage from the text and response pair will be worth five points for a total of 100 points for the entire assignment. Points will be deducted on the TEXT side for failure to document the chapter and page number from which the passage is taken. Points will be deducted from the RESPONSE side if your response is superficial, vague or incomplete (less than 100 words). Below is an example taken from a published work using the book *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>Ch. 1, page 1</p> <p>The bees came the summer of 1964, the summer I turned fourteen and my life went spinning off into a whole new orbit, and I mean <i>whole new orbit</i>. Looking back on it now, I want to say they showed up like the angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, setting events in motion I could never have guessed.</p>	<p>This passage establishes the setting of the novel: the summer of 1964. It also establishes the point of view which is first-person from the narrator who is telling the story in flashback to when she was fourteen. There is a Biblical allusion to when an angel appears to Mary, telling her that she’s going to become pregnant with Jesus. That makes me wonder if Lily is going to have some kind of big revelation like Mary. Also, she italicizes “whole new orbit,” so I can assume that the change in her life that she’s going to be talking about is a really, really big one, in some way comparable to Mary’s life changing when she got pregnant. I’m curious to see what the bees are all about, and I’m going to pay attention to them as a potential motif in the book.</p>

4. **DO NOT copy and paste entries from anything you find online, which is considered plagiarism. Your dialectical journal is a record of YOUR responses – YOUR thoughts and feelings about the text. YOU WILL BE CAUGHT, your assignment will receive a grade of zero, and your parent(s) will be contacted!!**