

Double-Entry Journal: Models

Responding to the text:

Draw a line down the middle of a page. On the left side, copy a *meaningful* passage from the book you're reading – perhaps a bit of dialogue, a description, or a character's thought. (Be sure to note the number of the page from which you copied it – you may want to find it later.) On the right side, write your response to the quotation. Why did you choose it? Did it puzzle you? Confuse you? Strike a chord? What does it mean to you?

Examples

Quotation	Response
"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." (Page 1)	This is the first sentence of the book. When I first read it I thought the writer was serious – it seemed like something people might have believed when it was written. Soon I realized she was making fun of that attitude. I wondered how much of the novel was written in that same way, and if I would understand the author's humor. It is not too obvious. Will the entire story be about finding a good wife or husband?

(example is from *Pride and Prejudice*)

"But to her unaccustomed vision the stretch of water behind her assumed the aspect of a barrier which her unaided strength would never be able to overcome."
(Page 89)

The distance between Edna and the shore symbolizes the distance she will put between herself and society, if she embarks on her quest for self. In this moment, such a distance seems insurmountable and dangerous to her, which speaks to how difficult her personal journey is going to be. I wonder if she will ever overcome her fear and accomplish learning to swim. At this point, also, I see this as a symbol of her independence and, perhaps, freedom from her stifling life as wife and mother in society as it exists in her day. But what can she do about it?

(example is from *The Awakening*)

Double-Entry Journal Instructions

(continued)

- You will be required to make 20 double-journal entries for the book.
- You will put quotes on the left side and reflective responses on the right side of each page.
- You may choose the chapters from which to journalize, but they must be representative of the entire novel. (For example, they all may not be from the beginning of the novel, but must be interspersed from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.)
- Please remember that these are to be your thoughtful reactions to the characters, conflicts, issues, etc. for that chapter, *not summaries*.