



Dialectical Journal Assignment

Night by Elie Wiesel

A dialectical journal is a type of double-entry note-taking strategy that engages readers in a *dialogue* with the text. The purpose of this strategy is to explore and analyze ideas presented in the text. Typically, the left side of the journal is used for source material (for instance, direct quotations or paraphrased ideas) and parenthetical citations are provided at the end of the quotation or paraphrase.

Parenthetical citations make it easier to reference the source material for discussions, projects, essays or other work. What types of source material do readers record in the left-hand column? Readers record source material that strikes them as interesting and/or material that develops the theme, plot, or characters in the story. In the right hand column, personally respond to the source material, analyze it, and evaluate its importance. For this assignment, you are being asked to write about the following literary elements.

Quotation	Page	Why do I find this quotation interesting or important?

- **Motif** (recurring image, object, or action that helps to develop the theme)
 - Character's eyes
- **External Conflict** (one character versus society, nature, or another character)
 - Physical places
 - Violence and inhumanity toward other humans
- **Internal conflict** (a character—like Elie—who is “at war” with himself)
 - Struggle of faith and hope
 - Individual survival
- **Symbolism** (people, places, or things that represent abstract ideas or concepts)
 - Fire
 - Night
- **Literary devices and strategies** (simile, metaphor, imagery, repetition, diction, tone, etc.)

Requirements

The dialectical journal will include...

- 20 entries typed or neatly hand written (each entry includes a quotation or paraphrase and original analysis)
- Your response and analysis together must be a minimum of 75 words for each entry
- Write two thoughtful entries per page (Complete projects will total 10 pages)
- Cover and bind the journal so that it looks like a journal from the concentration camps, one that holds the secrets of a Holocaust survivor. Possible designs are listed below.
 1. A collage of historically appropriate pictures with slightly burned edges
 2. A hand drawn image of an unforgettable event in the text
 3. A crumpled brown paper bag made to look like a worn cover
 4. Computer paper that has been made to look old