



English II and English II (Honors) Summer Reading Assignment, 2010

Texts: *Maus*, Volumes 1 and 2, by Art Spiegelman

Materials Needed:
One one-subject spirals (70 pages)

ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:

Divide the pages in your spiral into two equal sections and follow the directions below. The two sections will consist of a reading dialectical journal and an essay. You may designate each section by using a tab or folding a page to serve as a divider. THE FIRST PAGE OF EACH SPIRAL SHOULD BE A TITLE PAGE. INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND THE TITLE AND AUTHOR OF THE NOVEL.

THE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

Each time that you read from your novel, be sure to write your thoughts and comments about what you read in your journal. Note the date, the chapter and the page # before making an entry. Note literary devices and, words you don't understand, ideas you don't understand, ideas you DO understand, any relation of the events to current events or to your life, etc.

Following is an example of how your dialectical journal pages should look.

Dialectical Journal
Title of Book

Date	Chap.	Quotation	Page	Comment
6/7	2	"She moved like a lioness through the tall weeds."	10	vivid simile - I can picture what she looks like as she is walking.
		<i>Fred slips gloves into pocket.</i>	11	What is he up to? Why all the sneaky things? I don't really like him.
		"...t he dark aspect of his look that silenced her..."	15	The diction is very important here. It creates a menacing tone.
		<i>John Smith</i>	21	I wonder why he moved to this town? He seems more like a city person.
		<i>white butterflies</i>	25	This is the third time I've seen that. Is it symbolic?

A dialectical journal shows your own thoughts and ideas about the things you read in the novel. Feel free to write what you really think. Dialectic is a form of engaged argumentation—this means your journal should demonstrate an **active** interaction with the text as you read. Respond to it. Question it. Be involved in the story, not just a passive recipient. Complete sentences are not necessary here, but be certain to write enough so that you can understand your own notes when you need to refer to them for the essay or for class discussion. You should be able to come up with a minimum of five entries per chapter. It is recommended that you note important character details as well when major characters are introduced.

THE ESSAY

Below you will find an essay prompt for the novel. You need approximately 10 pages in your notebook for writing the essay. The first draft of the essay should be an outline detailing thesis, major claims, and evidence to be used in support of these claims. Depending on the depth of your claims and the evidence needed, the outline could be 1 to 3 pages on the average. Note, the outline should guide the logic and flow of your argument, but should also reflect the needs of your thesis. As all theses vary in depth and scope, so does the length and depth of outlines for those theses. The rough draft should be roughly three pages in the notebook. (This is a rough estimate—you may run over depending on handwriting). The rough draft should also clearly demonstrate attempts to edit and revise the essay toward the final draft. It is recommended you use a different color pen for your revisions to make the process more clearly evident. A two to three page final essay is adequate. The outline and rough draft must be handwritten in the

notebook—for the sake of your teacher's eyes, please write as neatly as you can (exceptions may be allowed by individual teachers based upon need—for example, should you injure your writing hand over the summer, or other such extenuating circumstances). The final draft should be typed. **Proper MLA format must be used for all citations, and a Works Cited page must be included.**

Essay Prompt: English II Honors students *must* answer the honors prompt. English II students may answer either prompt.

English II: In *Maus* the characters are presented as animals – mice, cats, and pigs. What effect does this have on the content of the text? In other words, why does the artist choose to portray his characters as animals as opposed to humans and what effect does this have on his readers? In organizing this essay, you might consider the three types of animals portrayed in the text and mentioned above.

English II (Honors): The graphic novel is an emerging genre in the field of literary studies. How does the medium of the graphic novel (the use of the visual) affect the communicative purpose of the text? In other words, what do the images add to the novel that could not have been communicated through text alone? In organizing this essay, you might ask yourself what three effects are achieved through the composition of the visual that cannot as easily be achieved through the composition of the text.