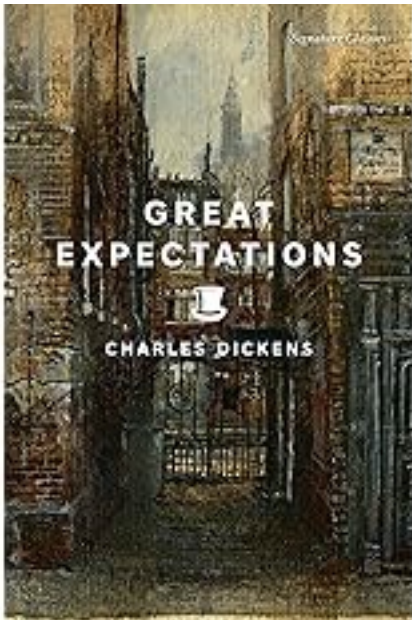




Cardinal Mooney High School
Honors English I Summer Reading Assignment 2025
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*Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Signature Edition*

Great Expectations is a bildungsroman, or a coming-of-age novel, and the story genre is Victorian Literature. It depicts the growth and personal development of an orphan named Pip. In the opening pages, the seven-year-old Pip meets a terrifying stranger in the graveyard where Pip's parents are buried. The stranger, an escaped convict, is eventually re-captured, but becomes intertwined in Pip's future. Filled with strong characters—some mysterious, others hilarious—Dickens' classic novel takes Pip through adulthood, and two endings which Dickens produced for his fans.

Dear Honors English I Students:

Honors English is a course that engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students should consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as smaller scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Below you will find the summer work for this course. This work will help you prepare for the type of work we will do in Honors English I.

Please read the directions carefully.

Please purchase a copy of *Great Expectations-Signature Edition*. You will be asked to bring the novel to school the first week of classes.

Assignment:

#1 Annotations: While reading the selected novel, students are highly encouraged (if possible) to highlight and make notes in the margins of the text.

What kinds of things could you annotate?

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make

- sections that are confusing for you
- questions that pop into your head as you are reading
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows
- connections you make to your personal life or to the lives of others
- symbols, themes, or topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

#2 Directions for Dialectical Journal:

While reading the novel, students are expected to create at least 10 journal entries that include quotations or excerpts from the text and commentary for each. These quotations or excerpts should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the story. The commentary for each quotation or excerpt should explain and comment on the meaning or importance and not merely paraphrase or summarize the text. Below are several ideas for a dialectical journal entry.

Form, Structure, and Plot: What is happening? Choose quotations/excerpts on the chronology of the plot: opening situation, complicating incident(s), main events in the rising action, climax, outcome.

How much time is covered? If the action is framed as a flashback, explain. Choose quotations/excerpts involved in forms, such as dream sequences, stream of consciousness narrative, parallel events, significant patterns of foreshadowing, or anything else interesting, along with commentary explaining why this plot or structural device is important.

Character: Choose quotations/excerpts about central characters, such as personality, function in the novel, motivations, or flaws.

Setting: Choose quotations/excerpts that show where (continent, region, state, house, room) and when (year, month, time of day) the novel occurs. Choose quotations/excerpts that show how the setting affects the plot or ideas of the novel. What mood is created by the setting?

Themes: Choose quotations/excerpts that identify major themes in the novel. What moral and ethical questions are being explored in the novel, and how are they resolved? What is the author saying about life, about mankind, or about nature? What is the big lesson that we are to learn?

Imagery: Choose quotations/excerpts that appeal to one or more of the five senses. What is the effect? Look also for recurring images or motifs (light/darkness, colors, clothing, odors, sounds, etc.). How are these images or motifs used?

Symbolism: Choose quotations/excerpts that use an image to suggest complex or multiple meanings. When something is used metaphorically, like a conch shell to represent authority, it becomes a symbol. Choose quotations/excerpts in the novel that use these symbols. What is the effect of the symbol? Are there patterns? Do these symbols advance one or more themes?

Figurative Language: Choose quotations/excerpts to identify effective examples of these devices: metaphors, similes, personification, and/or allusion. An allusion is a reference to someone or something known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science or some other branch of culture.

Dialectical Journal Entry Example: The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Text Evidence: Commentary

“It’s small and red with tight steps in front and windows so small you’d think they were holding their breath. Bricks are crumbling in places, and the front door is so swollen you have to push hard to get in. There is no front yard, only four little elms the city planted by the curb. Out back is a small garage for the car we don’t own yet and a small yard that looks smaller between the two buildings on either side. There are stairs in our house, but they’re ordinary hallway stairs, and the house has only one washroom. Everyone has to share a bedroom- Mama and Papa, Carlos and Kiki, me and Nenny.” p. 4

The author’s use of imagery and personification helps the reader imagine exactly what the narrator’s house looks like. Each description of the interior and exterior of the house helps the reader better develop an understanding of how the house that the narrator’s family purchased differed from the house that her parents and she had dreamed of owning. This description also allows the reader to learn about the family’s financial situation.

Helpful Suggestions:

- Don’t wait until the week before school starts to begin reading your novel and completing your dialectical journal. Unexpected events may occur that could make it difficult for you to complete these tasks on time.
- Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters that you are going to read per week, and stick with it.
- Annotate the text and find your quotations/excerpts as you are reading. Do not wait until you have completed the novel because it may become difficult to remember exactly why you believed that part of the text to be so important or noteworthy.

Rubric/Assessment

This Dialectal Journal will be worth 100 points -each entry worth 10 points.
The journal will be graded on completion, quantity-(at least 10 entries) and quality.

Ten detailed, meaningful passages-Quotations included-25 points

Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text -25 points

Makes insightful personal connections and asks thought-provoking, insightful questions

Coverage of text is complete (beginning, middle, end)-25 points

Assignment is neat, organized and professional looking; student has followed directions in the organization of the assignment. 25 points