SSR Dialectical Journal

As you read your SSR book(s), you will keep a dialectical journal. Instead of summarizing and reacting once you completed a reading session, you will now respond AS you read—when something inspires you to react. You will make your comments in a notebook (or at least on lined paper). The page should be divided in half (from top to bottom) so that on the **left side you write a quotation or event** from the story and then on the **right side you write your reaction to it**—*a personal connection, a prediction, an explanation of why you think it is significant to the story, an impression of a character or what he/she just did, a question you have about the quotation or event, etc*. Label what kind of reaction it is before you write your reaction. The most important element here is that you *genuinely* REACT. This will serve you well when you reflect on the book in the end.

Some days I may send you on a mission to identify something in particular about your story and the writing during that reading session (for example, what is revealed about a character, the best written sentence because of the author’s descriptive language, how a certain punctuation mark is used effectively, etc.).

Journals will be collected periodically for credit. I will look to see that you have logged **for at least 3 different reading sessions a week**, which means that at least one reading session will need to be outside of the class time I provide you—even if you are absent. Remember, the mission is to complete at least one book in time to complete the SSR Project before the end of the quarter.

You will document the **date and exact page numbers** you read for each reading session.

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| Quotation/Event | My Reaction |
| January 11, 2017 pages 1-8  “Yet the way these lambs had been torn from their mothers in itself exceeded anything we had so far thought possible.” (1) | Word Significance: Wiesel’s use of “lamb” really impacted me, making me feel sympathy for these children, as they are compared to innocent, helpless lamb taken from their family/herd. This is also troublesome because it suggests people are being treated as animals. The Nazis are cruel in how they treat the families they have torn from their homes. I cannot imagine as a child being separated from my mother and family and not knowing whether I would ever see them again! |