

Required Novel - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Annie Smith

Assignment Directions:

Students will keep a “dialectical journal” for the first three parts of the novel (through page 360) Students must have a total of **20 entries** in their journals. Entries are passages from the novel that the student thinks are important to the plot of the story. Entries must be taken from passages spread relatively evenly throughout the novel. This means all or most entries should not be taken from the beginning of the novel. I will have to assume that big chunks of text not represented in the journal were not read by the student.

EXTRA CREDIT will be given to any student who reads the entire novel and completes 25 journal entries.

Journal entries must include:

- A passage from the novel- This may be one line, a few lines, or up to a paragraph in length. It may include dialogue, prose, or both. Copy the passage **EXACTLY** as it appears in the novel and **put quotation marks around it**. Number each passage and include the page number from which it was taken.
- A response to the passage that includes:
 - A summary of the passage- Be sure to explain what is going on in the novel at this point. Explain what characters are involved, using their NAMES. This is what shows me you have really read the novel. (1-2 sentences)
 - Commentary on the significance of the passage – explanation of why this passage is important to the story. (1-2 sentences)

WARNING: Responses that are so vague that any person could have made it up simply by reading the quote will NOT be accepted.

Sample journal entry:

4. Page 68 - “Emmett was laughing now, but Sam thought he must know he had cancer. His pimples wouldn’t heal. That was one of the seven signs of cancer.”

Response - Sam is forcing her uncle to go to the V.A. hospital to have a doctor look at the pimples on his face because she believes they are a sign of agent orange. Emmett does not want to go and keeps making light of the situation and cracking jokes when Sam wants him to take the situation seriously. Because Sam lost her own father in the Vietnam War, she is scared of losing her uncle to it too.

Assignment Format:

All dialogue journals must be typed and submitted online through turnitin.com. Instructions will be given during the first week of classes. The student’s name, course name (AP English III), class period (you will not know this until school starts) should be typed at the top of the first page. **DO NOT USE** columns or boxes when typing the assignment as these are not recognized by turnitin and will cause the material to be mixed up.

DUE DATE: Summer reading assignments are to be completed and submitted to turnitin by 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 8. Assignments submitted after this time will be penalized.

Please feel free to contact me at sstephen@houstonisd.org any time during the summer if you have any questions.

CHEATING POLICY:

All work turned in must be the student’s own thoughts about the novels. PLEASE do not try to copy anything from the internet or from study-aid type books. Any student caught copying work from any source, including other students, will receive a grade of zero on the assignment, which CANNOT be made up.