Summer Reading—English 12—British Literature

Titles to be read on or before August 16, 2018.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

You will need a copy of this book for classroom use. For the first weeks of school, please bring your copy of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* to class with you.

1) Assignment for *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

A. Read the entire book.
B. Complete a character map for each character in the book, including Eddie. (I have included a hard copy and also an electronic copy)
C. Create a dialectical journal (handout included for reference, format and instruction).

Bring the assignments for *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* to class on the first day of school.

I hope you enjoy your summer and your reading!
Email questions to   jduling@tcswv.org

Dialectical Journals

The term "Dialectic" means "the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer." Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the text, your ideas about the themes, rhetorical devices utilized, plot structure, etc. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your Literary Analysis assignments.

PROCEDURE:

As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the chart (**ALWAYS** include page numbers).

In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)

You **must** label your responses using the following codes:

- (Q) Question—ask about something in the passage that is unclear
- (C) Connect—make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
- (P) Predict—anticipate what will occur based on what's in the passage
- (CL) Clarify—answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction
- (R) Reflect—think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense…what conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or the way things work?
- (V) Conceive—making statements about meaning or inferring from important aspects of the text.
- (E) Evaluate-make a judgement about what the author is trying to say.

CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- ✓ Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- ✓ Passages that remind you of experiences you've had or something you have seen before.
- ✓ Structural shifts or turns in the plot.
- ✓ A passage that brings you clarity
- ✓ Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- ✓ Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- ✓ Events that are ironic or surprising
- ✓ Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT:

You can **respond** to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be **specific and detailed**. You can write as much as you want for each entry. Please create a word document and INSERT a table with 3 columns. Type and save your journals as word documents. Please email me an electronic copy and print one hard copy to submit.

Basic Responses

- ✓ Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- ✓ Give your personal reactions to a passage
- ✓ Discuss the diction, ideas, or actions of the author or characters
- ✓ Relate events in the novel to your own experiences
- ✓ Describe what it makes you think or how it makes you feel
- ✓ Agree or disagree with a character or the author.

Higher Level Responses

- ✓ Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery)
- ✓ Make connections between different characters or events in the text.
- ✓ Make connections to another text, or film, or song…
- ✓ Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or characters
- ✓ Consider an event from the perspective of a different character
- ✓ Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

---

Sample Sentence Starters:
I don't understand this because…
I agree/disagree with this idea in that…
I believe what the author is trying to say is…
This passage reminds me of…
This passage is unclear because…
When the author employs (literary device)….

SAMPLE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ENTRY—*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom

Passages from the text— NUMBER EACH ITEM	Pg # / ¶	EACH Passage you quote must relate to one of the codes listed above. Make sure to use a variety of examples. Using the same codes for most or all of your entries will result in a lower score.
""No story sits by itself. Sometimes stories meet at corners and sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones beneath a river."	10/2	C- Albom believes that every human life affects another human life. Readers are encouraged to look beyond themselves and recognize humanity as an interconnected community of people, beliefs, stories, and experiences.
"People think of Heaven as a paradise garden, a place where they can float on clouds and laze in rivers and mountains. But scenery without solace is meaningless."	35/2	R- Albom discredits the cliché images of Heaven (white clouds, angels, and harps). Eddie learns that the journey towards eternal life is an emotional and spiritual one that is best made when one lets go of all 'baggage' from his/her earthly life.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

MIND—What does this character think about?

VISION/HOPE—What does the character want to do?

STRENGTHS—How does this character succeed?

WEAKNESSESS—How does this character struggle?

FEELINGS—What emotions does this character have?

HISTORY—What has happened to this character in the past?

FUTURE—What is next for this character?