

A **Dialectical Journal** is a written record of your thoughts. It's a conversation you have with yourself on paper. The purpose is to gain new information or knowledge using a questioning format. Many high schools and colleges require dialectical journals for everything they read.

Your journal should be a spiral-bound notebook, any size. Loose-leaf paper may be lost or misplaced. You should divide each page with a line down the middle and put plot details, story line, characters, setting, and quotes on the left and what you think about it, your commentary, and questions you might have on the right. Below is an example:

FACTS

On this side you will write **plot details, story line, characters, setting, and quotes** that have a special meaning.

MY THOUGHTS

On this side you will write **what you think** about each entry you have on the left.

Explain the quotes you chose and why they have special meaning.

Your **commentary**, and any **questions** you might have as you're reading.