

Ms. M.
Humanities
WWII

Name _____
Date _____

World War II Book Groups

For our WWII unit, you will be asked to participate in WWII book groups. The purpose of these books groups is to allow you to partner with a group of your classmates through a book of your choice that directly reflects on the historical and social implications of WWII. These book groups are designed to work in tandem with you Newspaper Project and provide further insight into the realities of WWII.

You will be asked to select 3 potential book choices. I will work my best to assign you to your top book choice, along with a group of classmates that best suit your learning and understanding. Each week, you will be asked to complete a series of Dialectical Journals reflecting on your reading and you will meet with your book group every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. As a book group, you will determine and agree upon the amount of reading you will do every week. For each book group meeting, you will be asked to complete a log of your discussion, regardless of the amount of reading completed.

This coming week, we will dedicate class lessons to a series of introductions to the authors and novels of WWII. At the end of the week, on Thursday, May 6th, you will be assigned your book group novel and members.

You will need to bring your novel in on Tuesday, May 11th.

WWII Novel Selections:

- *Catch-22*, Joseph Heller
- *Maus., Part I and II* Art Spiegelman
- *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Sunflower*, Simon Wiesenthal
- *Night*, Elie Wiesel
- *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak

My WWII Novel is _____

My Book Group Members are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Potential Reading Assignments

Wednesday, May 12th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Thursday, May 13th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Tuesday, May 18th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Wednesday, May 19th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Thursday, May 20th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Tuesday, May 25th - Pages _____ OR Chapters _____

Dialectical Journals

dialectical: relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions.

For our WWII Book Groups, you will be responsible for keeping two dialectical journals for every week's reading assignments. The purpose of the dialectical journal is to engage you, as the reader, in a direct conversation with the text.

You will select several key quotes or passages from your reading assignment and respond to it. Look to select quotes and passages that strike you as significant, intriguing, puzzling, etc. You are looking for points in the text where the reader can peel away the layers of plot, character, and setting to reach a deeper understanding. Throughout your dialectical journal, you will be tracking particular themes of the novel that you consider important to the overall meaning of the text. Ultimately, you will be using your dialectical journals as a companion to your final unit project, a literary essay.

Below is an example of a section from a dialectical journal entry:

Key Quote/Passage	Interpretation/Reflection
"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never." (Page 43)	This quote is a turning point for Eliezer. At this point, he has realized that his life is now in darkness, an eternal night. As he lists all the horrors of the concentration camps and what he is witnessing, I can understand why he feels as though the rest of his life will be a dark night full of pain and suffering. I feel like Eliezer has lost all his faith in life and more important, in God. How can someone who was so devoted lose his faith so completely? The repetition of the word "never" is incredibly poignant. Will Elie Wiesel ever come out of the darkness of the Holocaust?

Each dialectical journal should include at least 3 key quotes or passages and at least one page in length. Every Friday, you will be asked to turn in two Dialectical Journals.

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My top three choices for the World War II Book Groups are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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