

ENGLISH 9 SUMMER READING JOURNAL – DIRECTIONS

As you read *The Contender*, keep a **journal** in which you track:

- The plot
- The characters
- The conflicts or problems faced by these characters
- The main idea or themes of the book
- Your own thoughts about and connections to the book

You will bring your journal to school with you and use it to help you complete your **summer reading writing assessment in your English class**. This assessment will ask you to write about how one character in *The Contender* changes over the course of the book.

You should have **at least 10 journal entries** and **no more than 15 journal entries**. Your journal for *The Contender*, and for your choice book, if you keep one, will count for extra credit toward your summer reading grade!

We recommend you use the double-entry journal method:

TEXT WITH PAGE NUMBER	REACTION/REFLECTION TO TEXT
<p>Choose a passage from the text that stands out to you (you like it, you dislike it, you think it's important, it makes you think). You may want to focus on passages that help you to think about and understand the main character.</p>	<p>Guiding Questions to think about in responding to chosen passage:</p> <p>What does this make me think about? What does this help me understand about the character(s)? How does this show character change? How does this help me understand the plot? How does this affect the conflict?</p>
<p><i>Example from Chapter 1 of The Giver</i></p> <p>“Father was listening with interest. ‘I’m thinking, Lily,’ he said, ‘about the boy who didn’t obey the rules today. Do you think it’s possible that he felt strange and stupid, being in a new place with rules that he didn’t know about?’</p> <p>“Lily pondered that. “Yes,’ she said, finally.</p> <p>“‘I feel a little sorry for him,’ Jonas said, ‘even though I don’t even know him. I feel sorry for anyone who is in a place where he feels strange and stupid’” (6).</p>	<p><i>Example reflection:</i></p> <p>It sounds like Jonas is a pretty nice kid. He feels bad for someone he doesn’t even know. I wonder if Jonas has ever been in a situation where he felt strange and stupid, and maybe that’s why he kind of understands the boy in Lily’s class. Most people make fun of someone when they don’t know what’s going on. Jonas must be mature if he’s not responding the way the other kids are responding.</p>

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Print as many pages as needed to complete your summer reading journals.

Title: _____	Author: _____	
Journal # ____/10	Date _____	Pages read so far: _____

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