

## English I – Freshman English SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Required Reading:

*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer

All students are expected to read *Life as We Knew It*. For this novel, the students will answer the following questions for a ***dialectical journal*** to be turned in on the first day of school. There will be a discussion and literary assignments about this book on the first day of school. Students may use their analysis questions for these first-day assignments, so it is important to answer them as ***completely and comprehensively as possible***. You may complete this work on separate sheets of paper. Teachers will check all written work for plagiarism.

***What is a dialectical journal?*** "A **dialectical journal** is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature."

from: [education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html](http://education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html)

**Directions:** Read each and answer each question completely and comprehensively. Your opinion is important! Use quotes to explain your answers.

1. Describe the narrative structure (how the book is written) of this novel. Do you find it effective? Explain your answer.
2. Why do you think the society falls apart so quickly after the moon event? Do you think this event would have the same effect in a poorer culture? Explain your answers.
3. Food for thought: This book can be described as a ***post-apocalyptic novel***. What does this term mean? Why did the author choose the moon as a motivating force for all changes (societal, personal, familial) in the book?