

**AP English III – Language and Composition**  
**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

**Required Reading:**

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

**Recommended Reading (students should read at least one selection in addition to the required reading):**

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

*The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong Kingston

*Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor

*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

*Native Son* by Richard Wright

All students are expected to read *The Glass Castle*, *The Things They Carried* and *Into the Wild*. For these novels, the student will answer the following questions in a *dialectical journal* to be turned in on the first day of school. There will be a discussion and literary assignments about these books 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.

**The Glass Castle:**

1. As a successful adult, the author finds her estranged mother digging for food out of dumpsters. When the author speaks to her mother, and voices her concern about her life, the mother tells the author that her values are misplaced. What does this mean?
2. Consider the quote: "Wherever you go, there you are." Throughout the book, the author works to escape her poverty-stricken and unpredictable family life that her parents have developed. Yet, her memories still hold her strongly. What does this say about how strongly family ties can bind? How does the quote apply to this question?

**Into the Wild:**

1. Chris McCandless has a burning desire to live as independently as possible. Is he a true rebel, or does he simply want to test his abilities to the absolute limit? Explain with examples.
2. Chris McCandless's choice to leave societal burdens resulted in heartache for his family and friends, yet he remained anything but anonymous. Were the final years of his life a transitional period of growth, or the acts of a selfish person? Explain.

**The Things They Carried:**

1. Discuss the double meaning of the title of this book. Choose three characters or events and explore the "things they carried."