

English IV – British Literature
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Required Reading:

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Chocolat by Joanne Harris

All students are expected to read *Dracula* and *Chocolat*. 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

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

Dracula:

1. Is Count Dracula purely an evil character, or is he a character who deserves pity because he cannot adjust to changes in his society? How does he act when he realizes that he and his family's honor no longer matter in a modern world?
2. Explain how Van Helsing's character bridges the gap between old-fashioned values and modern practices. He looks beyond the medical and societal limitations of his time to rescue characters from Count Dracula. You can compare his character to Count Dracula for more insight.
3. The characters of Van Helsing and Dracula have become legendary in world literature. After reading the novel, how do these characters in the novel compare to the legends that we know? (You may refer to movies, comics, or any other source for your answer.)

Chocolat:

1. Discuss the different reactions that Vianne Rocher's chocolate shop attracts in the Catholic town where Rocher sells her sweets. Why do people react this way?
2. Compare the characters of Vianne and the Vicar. Does one represent evil and temptation, and the other purity? Explain your answer.