

Summer Reading 8th Grade 2019-2020

Part I: "Lincoln is Shot" by Jim Bishop

Instructions: Read Jim Bishop's historical fiction account of the night President Abraham Lincoln was shot. Then, travel back in your imagination to the night that John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln. You are to write your own version of what happened that night, assuming the identity of someone mentioned in the story or creating your own identity. The narrative account must be from that person's perspective, and it must include sensory details and facts from the story. While you have somewhat free reign over the creativity of your story, you must keep it time-period appropriate. In your reflection of that fateful night, include a beginning (who are you and how you came to be at the theatre that night), a middle (events you witnessed), and an ending (what happened after that night). Transport the reader back to the scene. Use vivid words to describe and language appropriate to the time and occasion. No need to add quotations from the story.

The Details:

- ❖ You may be any character in the story except Lincoln or Booth (you must be a human), or you may create a character of your own who could have been there that night
- ❖ Please keep your story to 1-3 pages typed using MLA format
 - Times font
 - 12 pt.
 - 1-inch margins
 - Double spaced
- ❖ Booth's identity as the killer was not officially known the night of the assassination
- ❖ Content takes priority over the formal "stuff"
- ❖ Do your best to paint a vivid picture
- ❖ Feel free to add facts, but don't disregard the time period

The Grading:

- ❖ Vivid, accurate picture of events
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Appropriate language and details for the time period
- ❖ Required details included in your "Eyewitness Account"
 - April 14, 1865
 - Ford's Theatre
 - *Our American Cousin* starring Harry Hawk and Laura Keane
 - John Wilkes Booth
- ❖ Mechanics and such

Total: 20 points

*You may do a little research to find out about Booth, Lincoln, or the theatre, but it isn't necessary or required to complete this assignment.

Part II: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Read: In addition to reading the short story “Lincoln is Shot” by Jim Bishop, you will also read *Night* by Elie Wiesel. *Night* is the tragic account of his experience at Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentrations camps during World War II.

Task: As you read, you will create 4 dialectical journal entries. Choose at least 2 different types of responses for this assignment. See the example below for what to do. *Honors students should primarily use **Q, R, and E**.

Type: Create a grid and fill it in with text evidence and your response to it. You may copy as many sentences from the text as you’d like, but just be sure to copy directly, word for word. Use proper MLA citation, including spacing and punctuation. Type this assignment using any legible 12 pt. font.

Procedure:

1. As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the t-chart (*ALWAYS include the page number using MLA style*).
2. In the right column, write your response to the text (*ideas, insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage*). Responses should be thorough and thoughtful. Quality is valued over quantity.
3. Label your response with one of the following codes:
 - (Q) Question- ask about something that is unclear in the passage (don’t use more than once)
 - (P) Predict- anticipate what will occur based on what’s in the passage (be sure to clarify)
 - (CL) Clarify- answer earlier questions or confirm/disaffirm a prediction (based on prediction)
 - (C) Connect- make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
 - (R) Reflect- think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense- not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, human nature, or just the way things work?
 - (E) Evaluate- make a judgment about the characters, their actions, or what the author is trying to say. What is the impact, influence, or motive?

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry: *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank

Passages from the Text	Response
“No, on the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend. All I think about when I’m with friends is having a good time. I can’t bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things. We don’t seem to be able to get any closer, and that’s the problem. Maybe it’s my fault that we don’t confide in each other. In any case, that’s just how things are, and unfortunately they’re not liable to change. This is why I’ve started the diary” (27).	(R) Anne is like most kids, in that she wants to have people in her life she can confide in. Sadly, her friends are either unable or unwilling to have deep conversations. When people are real with one another, they risk being judged, so that’s why Anne can’t get close to them. Her experience has pushed her to write in a journal in order to get out her true feelings.

**Connect, Reflect, and Evaluate are higher level response types. Focus mainly on using those three.*

- 4 Dialectical Entries
- 2 of the 4 entries are different response types (question, predict, clarify, connect, reflect, analyze)
- Typed: For this part of the assignment, you may use any legible font
- Text passages are typed correctly in MLA format: note punctuation, content, spacing, page number

Grading: 20 points