

Dear Future A.P. English 11 Student,

Welcome aboard! And now the list you've been waiting for...

Please read and enjoy the following:

- *Teaching A Stone to Talk* (a collection of essays) by Annie Dillard
- *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster

Assessment on these books will be the first week of school. (See below for types of assessment.) Students who fail to complete the reading and accompanying assignments should expect to drop the course.

The dialectical journal *is due the first day of school.*

No Spark Notes, Cliff's Notes, cheating pink monkeys, etc. Don't do it. Really.

You can purchase the Annie Dillard collection and the novel at a bookstore or online.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at: [irelacan@cps.k12.va.us](mailto:irelacan@cps.k12.va.us).

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ireland

<b><i>Text:</i></b>	<b><i>Teaching A Stone to Talk</i></b> by Annie Dillard
<b><i>Assessment:</i></b>	Dialectical journal due the first day of school (test grade) Objective quiz (quiz grade)
<b><i>Text:</i></b>	<b><i>A Passage to India</i></b> by E.M. Forster
<b><i>Assessment:</i></b>	Oral seminar and essay the first week of school (test grade)

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*Instructions for the ...*

***Dialectical Journal Assignment:***

For this assignment you will be keeping a dialectical journal/log for 6 essays (your choice) in Annie Dillard's *Teaching a Stone to Talk*. (Each response should be at least 300 words.) To put it simply, you will be creating a question about each essay, and then you will answer your own question. The trick is to ask the *right* question—a question that will elicit critical thinking about what you've read. Refer to the page of question starters that target higher-level thinking skills.

Head each page with the title of the essay/chapter. **Type** your question in bold, and then answer beneath the question. The responses should be double-spaced and more than one paragraph. Assignments that merely summarize the essays will receive no higher than a 50.

These journals must be typed.

They are due on the first class meeting.

No late assignments will be accepted.

## Critical Thinking Question Starters

- **Analysis**-examining and breaking information into parts by identifying motives or causes, making inferences and finding evidence to support generalizations.
  - How is \_\_\_\_\_ related to...?
  - Why do you think ...? What motive is there....?
  - What conclusions can you draw...?
  - How would you classify....?
  - How would you categorize....?
  - What evidence can you find....?
  - What is the relationship between...?
  - Can you make a distinction between...?
  - What ideas justify....?
- **Synthesis**-compiling information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions.
  - What changes would you make to solve...?
  - How would you improve...?
  - What would happen if...?
  - How could you change the plot...?
  - What could be done to minimize/maximize...?
  - What way would you design...? Can you elaborate on the reason...?
  - Can you propose an alternative...?
  - How would you adapt \_\_\_\_\_ to create a different?
  - What could be combined to improve...?
  - Suppose you could \_\_\_\_\_what would you do....?
  - Can you think of an original way for the.....?
- **Evaluation**- presenting and defending opinions by making judgments about information, validity of ideas or quality of work based on a set of criteria.
  - Do you agree with the actions...? -with the outcomes...?
  - What is your opinion of....?
  - Can you assess the value or importance of...?
  - Would it be better if...?
  - Why did they (the characters) choose....?
  - What would you recommend....?
  - What data was used to make the conclusion...?
  - How would you rate the...?
  - What would you cite to defend the actions...?
  - How would you evaluate....?
  - What choice would you have made...? How would you prioritize....?
  - What judgment would you make about....?
  - Based on what you know, how would you explain....?
  - What information would you use to support the view...?