Weaver Academy 2009 Summer Reading AP 11 Language and Composition

AP students must read the mandatory selection entitled:
The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

AP students must also select one set of books to read from the three sets below:

Set #1: Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich paired with Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

Set #2: I Have a Dream Writings and Speeches that Changed the World, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paired with Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas an American Slave, Frederick Douglas

Set #3: Hiroshima, John Hersey paired with Voices from Chernobyl, Svetlana Alexievich translated by Keith Gessen

For each of the three works you are assigned to read this summer, you are to complete a Dialectical Journal, also known as text connections (see detailed instructions and a brief example on the next page), and in addition, for the one work of your choice, you are to do a creative project. This could very easily pertain to your area of concentration or a special talent you have. Examples of this could be a sculpture or painting which reflects what the work meant to you; an original piece of music or song which you would play or perform capturing the mood of the piece; an original dance to music which portrays the theme of the work or one character from the work, an oral interpretive reading of a selection from the work, artistically design a set if the work were going to be adapted as a play or a large movie poster if it were adapted to a screenplay; a CD which records music which takes the listener through the book. For you creative writers, you could write a collection of poems relating to the work or excerpts of a character's journal. These are just some ideas you can use as a springboard; be sure you are prepared to explain your project.

Dialectical Journaling (Text Connections)

A dialectical journal is a double entry reading journal. It requires at least one text, a sheet of lined notebook paper, and a writing implement.

On the left side of the lined page, write down a meaningful word, phrase, or a line or two from the text you are reading. Document the page where the quote is located within the text.

On the right hand side of the page, reflect, react, or respond to the words, phrases, or lines you've taken from the text. You may also write questions for yourself about the text or hypothetically pose questions to the author, speaker, or narrator of the text.

The purposes of the dialectical journal are for you to make personal connections to the text, practice deeper critical thinking skills, reflect on the relevance of the text, and learn how to craft good, open-ended, probing questions.

EXAMPLE:

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, from 40 Model Essays

Dialectical Journal

Page	**Quotation**	**Reader Reaction**
Page 362	"I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine, and my wife past childbearing."	No wonder Swift proposes his outrageous solution to the social problem of poverty and hunger. He has nothing to lose. I wonder how I would react if I were a parent reading this!