**Dialectical Journal EntrY (Sample)**



**Name:** Katherine Gosling **Period:** 1  **Date:** 9/2/26

**Text:** The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian **Author:** Sherman Alexie

The term “dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.”   
Your dialectical journal entries are like a series of conversations with the texts we read.

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| Direct **QUOTE**:  and speaker or character’s name.  No ellipses please…  Record entire quote.  Quotes should be no more than 3-4 sentences. | Student **RESPONSE**:  \*Quality not quantity. Keep responses to one page. You may type or use your neatest handwriting. At least 2-3 sentences per response. If you review your responses, and they address several of the items listed in the Key below, name them! | Label the **CODE** for your response  *(See key below)* |
| ***SAMPLE ENTRY***  From *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie  *“*I grabbed my book and opened it up. I wanted to smell it. Heck, I wanted to kiss it. Yes, kiss it. That's right, I am a book kisser. Maybe that's kind of perverted or maybe it's just romantic and highly intelligent” (10).  --Arnie, the main character | *This quote really helps me understand who the main character is. He might be a little self conscious—I mean he’s aware of what others might think or how they might judge the fact that he is smelling and kissing a book, but it really says something about his character: He is passionate about learning and reading. He values books. Alexie is doing a stellar job using dialogue and imagery to help me see Arnie’s actions and get to know him.*  *I have a similar feeling when I go to the used bookstore with my grandmother. It smells a little musty, but it is like the books are waiting for me, like they greet me when I arrive each time. And, kind of like Arnie, I treating the books like they are people, I guess. Books can’t really feel a kiss, nor can they actually greet us, but it can feel like the stories are our friends waiting to take us on adventures.*  *Because the main character has already discussed the stereotypes that are made about Native Americans who live on the reservations as uneducated, I think Sherman Alexie might use books as a symbol or motif in the novel.* | **E**  **C**  **P** |

**Requirement:** After you record your responses, please review the key below and label your response as one of the following in the right column above. We will be analyzing your reading responses. In an effort to help you strengthen your literary analysis skills, you will be encouraged to set goals to address the different types of responses listed below.

**KEY:  
A (ANALYZE):** What is the author doing? Which devices might the author be using and for what purpose? **C (CONNECT):** How does an event, issue, or character in the text relate to you or a personal experience?  
**E (EVALUATE):** Do you believe the author is especially successful with his characterization, dialogue, or argument?Discuss HOW the text was successful or what didn’t work in your opinion.  
**P (PREDICT):** What might happen next? Why do you think so?  **Q (QUESTION):** What would you like to ask the narrator or a character? Why?  
**CL (CLARIFY):** Answer a question or confirm or disaffirm an earlier prediction.

Designed by: Kerri Mauer, Montgomery County Public Schools