



Summer Assignment
English II Honors, Ms. Peucker

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

Part One: Dialectical Reader-Response Journal

As you read, complete a dialectical response journal. See the sample below. There should be AT LEAST 25 entries and they should cover important details about the text. Generally, each response to a quotation should be 2-5 sentences and should include your analysis of the literary and rhetorical techniques present in the quotations, the author's attitude, purpose or tone, and relation to personal experience.

| QUOTE | RESPONSE |
|---|--|
| <p>“Anger is better. There is a sense of being in anger. A reality and presence. An awareness of worth. It is a lovely surging. Her thoughts fall back to Mr. Yacobowski’s eyes, his phlegmy voice. The anger will not hold; the puppy is too easily surfeited. Its thirst too quickly quenched, it sleeps. The shame wells up again, its muddy rivulets seeping into her eyes” (Morrison, 50).</p> | <p>Pecola’s life has been spent as a victim with no self-worth. The transformation of her shame into anger is only in its infancy, thus it is described as a puppy. Her anger, like a puppy, it is eager and energetic enough to jump at the first chance it sees to play. Also like a puppy, it can not sustain its energy when it indulges in all-out playtime. In her case, the first glimpse in the book that she is worthy of feeling anger peters back out into shame as quickly as it has risen since her sense of self-worth is too new to sustain the more fiery raging of anger.</p> |

Part Two: Essay

Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays everyday for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison’s novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.

Question: Which is a greater threat to the children in *The Bluest Eye*: racism or sexism?
Please explore the main themes, ideas, and characters to come up with a meaningful thesis.

Guidelines:

1. Proper MLA Format
2. 5 pages, double-spaced
3. 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1-inch margins
4. Avoid using the words "I" and "You"
5. Include a strong thesis
6. Incorporate textual evidence to support your thesis
7. Avoid simply summarizing the book

Due Date: A paper copy of your assignment will be due on the **first** day of your English II Honors class, and will be given an essay grade. All late assignments will be subject to grade deductions and penalties.

Have a great summer: Happy Reading!
Ms. Peucker