

Name: _____

RCSA Summer Reading Assignment: 6th to 7th Grade

Summer Assignment: You must write 6-8 dialectical journal entries as you read your summer reading book, Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson. Your entries must come from varying parts of the novel. The dialectical journal will count for 15% of your 1st Quarter Reading grade for the 2019-20 school year. **It is due on the first day of school.**

Directions:

- ☐ Find 6-8 quotes from different sections of the book that make you think or are important to the story. The quotes should show your understanding of the *whole* novel from beginning to end.
- ☐ Copy each quote and the page number where it appears.
- ☐ Write a short explanation that analyzes and shows the meaning of that quote. Your explanation should be 4-5 sentences.
 - What thoughts did you have while reading the quote? Why is it significant? How does it relate to your understanding of the book? This should NOT be a plot summary but should instead show your own original thoughts and opinions about what you read.

*****Remember:** A quote doesn't have to be dialogue. It can include anything at all from the book.

Your explanation paragraph might include the following:

- a connection, visualization, inference, or prediction you made while reading this part of the book
- a question this part made you ask, and what the answer might be
- how this part gives insight into character
- why this part is important to the plot
- how this part exemplifies the author's writing style
- how this part reveals the theme of the book
- how this part shows conflict in the book or helps you understand something new about conflicts

***The sample below is based on the novel Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Quote (page)	Explanation & Analysis
<p>"I was lost. I knew that we were in the cellar of a house on Wall Street, owned by the Locktons, in the city of New York, but it was like looking at a knot, knowing it was a knot, but not knowing how to untie it. I had no map for this life." (49)</p>	<p>Isabel doesn't know what to do, and she doesn't know her place anymore. She's feeling confused, and she has no one to guide her. Isabel knew her old life so well, but as soon as she started living with the Locktons, she was lost. She knew physically where she was, but not mentally. This is a problem and she doesn't know how to get out of it, like not knowing how to untie a knot.</p>
<p>"Madam looked down without seeing me; she looked at my face, my kerchief, my shift neatly tucked into my skirt, looked at my shoes pinching my feet, looked at my hands that were stronger than hers. She did not look into my eyes, did not see the lion inside. She did not see the me of me, the Isabel" (134)</p>	<p>Isabel means that all Madam sees in her is a lowly servant girl. All Madam sees is a slave. Madam doesn't see a young girl that could think or have feelings. On the outside she may behave like a mousy servant, but on the inside she's a fierce lion ready to attack and stand up for her rights. Madam might also be unwilling to see Isabel for who she really is because it will make her feel guilty about selling Ruth and about how she treats her slaves.</p>
<p>"The shopkeepers and other folks looked at my face and saw only the angry red scar, just starting to fade at the edges. They did not see the girl hidden." (159)</p>	<p>What the townspeople "saw" when she walked by was a mean, black slave who was a trouble-maker. All they looked at was the big "I" burned onto her cheek, and they assumed that she was a bad person just because of the mark. Nobody could look past it. It is like if a person has something wrong with them, or if they look different, most people can't look past that. All they think about is that one thing. They don't even give the person a chance. What is hidden behind Isabel's scar, though, is just a little girl who has no parents, no sister, and just wants freedom. She is not this big, scary person who is trying to kill someone; she is actually the opposite.</p>
<p>"My nose and mouth recollected Momma's, but the set of the eyes, those came from Poppa. As I stared, their two faces came forth and drifted back, until I could see only me. I traced the „I" with my fingertip. This is my country mark. I did not ask for it, but I would carry it as Poppa carried his. It made me his daughter. It made me strong. I took a step back, seeing near my whole self in the mirror. I pushed back my shoulders and raised my chin, my back straight as an arrow. This mark stands for Isabel." (286)</p>	<p>Isabel has changed a lot throughout the book, but not nearly as much as in this last section. Isabel is now a lot more daring, brave, confident, respectful, and just more alive. She has taken a handful of risks in this section such as forging a pass, letting herself out of the "bin", lying to Mr. Fisher, and sneaking Curzon out. She also was not selfish. She did not leave NY without Curzon, the boy who had always been there when she fell. She "paid" her debt to him, and actually came back to rescue him. The last phrase, "This mark stands for Isabel" really emphasizes how she accepts all that has happened to her- not only the scar printed on her face, but ALL of the hardships that she's been through. She will now finally just stand tall, head held high, and embrace it all. There are times in our lives when we must be like Isabel- times when we must grow up and accept all the obstacles we have overcome and the ones that lie ahead. Isabel is, in this way, a great role model.</p>

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