***The Alchemist***

Dialectical Journal Daily Assignment Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Goal:** To encourage and develop critical reading and thinking skills and reflective questioning.

**Directions:** After reading *each* of the 12 assigned sections, select one passage that is significant/ worthy of reflection. Write (type or in ink- legible) the complete passage, including page number, and then write your reflection using complete sentences.

The reflection section is the most important and should clarify the significance of the passage. As you select the passage and write your reflection, consider why you selected the passage. What insight did it provide you? What connections did you make? Were there any significant symbols or themes in the passage? What questions did it raise? Do you agree or disagree with the character’s decisions? Etc.

**Example:**

**Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O’Brien**

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| **Passages (p.#)** | **Reflection** |
| “-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”. (p.2) | O’Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each solider in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers must carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men with whom you combat, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.  |

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| **Passage (p#)** | **Reflection** |
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