AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

This year's summer reading selections are *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee AND *The Sunset Limited* by Cormac McCarthy.

As you read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, keep a Dialectic Journal (see below for more detailed instructions). You will use this journal as a reference tool during our study of the novel in the first few weeks of school. This is not an easy novel to read, as there are sophisticated stylistic devices and a few disturbing scenes. Some of the chapters will flat out confuse you. I fully expect this. Simply record your thoughts as you ponder. DO NOT seek the answers from SparkNotes - instead, take a stab at your own interpretation even if you think you might be wrong. Our discussions will be much more interesting if you follow my advice in this regard!

As you read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, keep a journal of important passages that help shape your understanding of and/or questions about the text. Your journal must be hand written. The journal should be in two-column format where the page number and passage appear on the left and your comments appear on the right. You should have a minimum of four entries for each of the categories below. Please bring them to class on the first day of school.

Make indexing marks on each entry using the following codes:

D = development of character, conflict, or theme
S = symbolism
A = author’s craft (notes related to Lee’s writing style)
Q = question. Ask about something in the passage that is unclear.

Below is a brief illustrative example of a journal entry for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Analysis/Reflection</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>“Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her absence.” (2)</td>
<td>Scout reflects on her mother, noting that she was too young to remember her when she died and looks to Calpurnia as a motherly figure.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>