A **dialectical journal** is a conversation between you and what you are reading. It highlights the questions, connections, and ideas that you have as you read. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature.

Dialectical Journal Sample

**Theme/Topic of focus**: Personal Dreams **Claim, Analysis & Reflection – Why do you find this passage interesting or important ?**

**Passage from text to support:**

**Don’t forget MLA format**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Act I Scene i  **Personal Dreams & differences between generations (there are tons, pick one to focus on)**  *Mama: “Well I always wanted me a garden like I used to see sometimes at the bak of the houses down home. This plant is close as I ever got to having one” (I.i. 53)* | **Claim:**  *While Walter seems to be interested in material things and Travis as well, Mama displays differences in generations through her dream of owning a garden.*  **Analysis:**  *We view several instances throughout Act I scene I where Walter and Travis are both interested in material things such as owning a liquor store and asking for money. Mama, however, demonstrates simplicity in her dreams in wanting her own garden. She takes pride in one single plant.*  **Reflection:**  *Several ideas are conveyed here. Primarily, we notice a generational difference between material goods and appreciation of nature. I wonder if the plant represents or symbolizes something deeper? When I think of a plant (or nature in general) I think of growth, or life having to be nurtured. I wonder if the focus on Mama’s plant is foreshadowing to events to come throughout the play.* |