**Sample Dialectical (2-Column) Journal**

1. At this point in the story the narrator is describing his friend Branwell in the past. He loves words and knows a lot of them.
2. Branwell’s character is being revealed by what Connor, his best friend, says about him. In this story so far, we only learn about Branwell through what everyone else says about him since he is mute. There is some irony in the fact that he loved words but couldn’t use them. From what I can gather about Branwell, he is extremely intelligent and an individual. He is different from his peers but he seems to be able to pull this off without being harassed.
3. He’s able to negotiate social circles without being bullied. I’m not sure how much he actually interacts with people, but he does have one very good friend in Connor, which they say is what is important. I’m always interested in how some teens are able to keep their individual identities and others will do anything to conform. Sometimes the individuals don’t seem to have any choice about it. They can’t conform, and/or they don’t want to. They don’t always fare well in school which tends to favor quiet obedience, even though teachers like to say “be yourself” and “think for yourself.” I have clear images of past students who were unique. One of my 7th grade students sewed her own dress. It was calico and not the least bit stylish, but she was so proud of her accomplishment and confident, so none of the kids said a word about it. I was ready to jump in and protect her, but she was fine. This is what I don’t get about bullying. Why are some kids targets, and others are not?

**9/8/2015** **Dated**

‘We both loved to talk, but Branwell loved it more. He loved words. He had about five words for things that most people had only one for, and could use four or five in a single sentence”(7).



**Relevant, thought-provoking quote, used quotation marks, included page number to refer to for discussions.**

1. **Context** (what is going on in the story when this quote appears.

**2 . Something**

**literary**



**3.**

**What it shows**



Some Options:

Universal meaning-“the big picture”

Reflection

Personal connection

Asking important questions.