

Kianna Pittman
Amanda Webster
English Composition 110
September 2, 2021

Dialectical Journal for My Dark Vanessa 1 (chapters 1-5)

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
"I tried to gauge what she knows.she could have easily seen it"	chapter 1 Page 10	After Vanessa, another student (Taylor) was abused by the same teacher and she told her story on Facebook. In this quote Vanessa is wondering if the reason her mom texted her "thinking about you" is because she's seen Taylor's Facebook post. The question that rose in my mind was does her mom know that she was abused by her teacher? Did Vanessa come clean with her parents or did someone rat her out?
"Did you see Jenny?"	chapter 2 Pages 11-46	The way Vanessa obsesses over Jenny (her roommate from freshman year) kind of makes it seem as if she's in love with Jenny. It makes me think that Vanessa never really had friends growing up so when her first true friend came along she just became overly invested in this relationship because it was the only serious one she probably ever had.
"I shift my in my seat, aware of my own sweat on the backs of my knees and in the crooks of my elbows and try to imagine what he means by acts of courage."	Chapter 2 Page 18	It kind of feels like she had plans to pursue him the moment she saw him.
"Mr.Strane is the faculty advisor this year."	chapter 2 Page 24	I wonder if string teaching the writing class that she took for extracurricular activity persuaded her to take that class instead of the other ones her advisor suggested
"It brings up too much. Memories of him saying the way I romanticized abuse was troubling, almost as troubling as a fact that I still kept in touch with the man who abused me.	chapter 3 Page 50	Vanessa has just reconnected with her on again off again boyfriend Ira. He's telling her that he thinks it's good she is seeing a therapist, but Vanessa reveals that her therapist doesn't know anything about her affair with her teacher, that her therapist is strictly there to help deal with the death of her father. This frustrates Ira. I believe this is why their relationship did not work out, he wanted her to get the help she needed while she didn't believe she needed help.
" I wondered if I could see you."	Chapter 3	Strane Only wants to see her to make sure she stays quiet.

	Page 53	
"he kept going soft; I was too old."	Chapter 3 Page 57	disgust just fills my body.she was only 22 at the time they tried to recreate their first moment but that was young enough for him..its just sick.

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
"I can't wrap my head around the change in him. Now I'm not even sure if he really said we won't go any further than that for now or maybe for now I meant something totally different from what I assumed. Do I want him to fuck me? Fuck me. The crudeness of it makes me turn my face into the pillow. His voice doesn't even sound the same haggard and rough. I open my eyes and he's positioning himself between my legs, brow furrowed in concentration. I try to stall, tell him I didn't want to get pregnant. "You won't," he says. "That's impossible. I move my hips away "what does that mean?" "I had an operation, a vasectomy," he says. He holds himself with one hand instead he's me with the other "you won't get pregnant just relax" he tries to push it in his thumb digging hard into my pelvis.It won't fit. "You got a calm down honey," he says "take a deep breath".I start to tear up, but he doesn't stop, just says I'm doing great as he keeps trying to get it in. He tells me to breathe in and out, and when I exhale he thrusts hard and pushes a little farther inside. I start crying, really crying— still, he doesn't stop. "You're doing great" he says "another deep breath, OK? There we go. That's nice. That's so nice.""	Chapter 4 Page 102	This whole thing was just very triggering to me. I've been in a similar position so I know how that feels. From the crying to the physical pain, the guy who does not care as long as he gets his nut off. The fact that in the beginning he promised her that if she didn't want to do anything,that they didn't have to do it, yet she's literally crying while he attempts to force himself inside her (which means she doesn't want to do it or she is in pain)and continues until he's done. HE CAN BOTH HEAR AND SEE HER CRYING AND CONTINUES TO DO THE VERY THING THAT'S MAKING HER CRY.
" At least I'm not crying this time."	Chapter 4 Page 103	why would she do it again.
""I hope you're not too overwhelmed," he says.	Chapter 4 Page 103	Inside her head she's in love, he's fragile and she doesn't want to hurt his feelings but she is uncomfortable and chooses his comfort over

In order to create an editable version of this template that may be used for assignments, you will need to select File>Make a Copy.

I know he wants the truth and that I should tell him I didn't like being woken up by him hard and practically pushing into me. That I wasn't ready to have sex this way. That it felt forced."		hers to seem mature like he says she is, but why. Why is it that victims find themselves trying to comfort their abusers, why not confront them? Why not be honest?
"...don't understand why he didn't stop when I started to cry. That's a thought <i>I wanna go home</i> ran through my head the entire time we first did it."	chapter 4 Page 104	Again, very relatable and triggering.
"Disappointment seeps into me as though I wanted to see him fall..."	Chapter 5 Page 107	It's like the older part of her is finally starting to process that what happened was wrong.
"He only wanted to make sure I'd stay quiet. He used me again. How many times? What's it gonna take, Vanessa"	Chapter 5 Page 107	I knew it

Dialectical Journal 2 for My Dark Vanessa (Chapters 6-10)

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
"And you'd end up in some foster home."	Chapter 6 Page 119	Strane is lying to keep her quiet
"my brain can't keep up. It feels like he's exaggerating, but I get too overwhelmed and lose track of what I believe."	Chapter 6 Page 119	He plays on her emotions and love for her family. He intentionally comes up with these over the top never gonna happen scenarios to keep her quiet .
"he and I are friends"	Chapter 7 Page 150	Vanessa has said this to a teacher before but with all the rumors going around about her a Strane she says it to a teacher making the situation worse. She wants it to be public, she wants to be seen him, maybe

In order to create an editable version of this template that may be used for assignments, you will need to select File>Make a Copy.

		because part of her secretly wants it to end or maybe it's just a trophy kinda thing.
"Well, I've taught kids like her for the past thirteen years. I know how to handle them."	Chapter 7 Page 165	I think this was his way of ending things. The words "kids like her" makes me believe this isn't his first time having an affair with a student, so once kids like Jenny get close and start threatening to out his inappropriate relationships with the students he edges them on by pissing them off. Once they go and tell Strane and whatever young woman he's dealing with at the time deny everything. That's when he stops talking to that girl and lays low on having sex with his student for a while.
"It wasn't the same with them, do you understand? It wasn't like how it was with you. I loved you, Vanessa. I loved you."	Chapter 8 Page 188	He just openly admitted to sexually assaulting six other girls that came in the years he and her had an affair (even though he claimed that everyone was lying about him and he didn't know where those accusations came from) and she never stopped to ask herself was she really the first or was there more before her. She still doesn't see him for the monster that he really is.
"Leaving her office, I wonder when I made the decision, if I Arrived with the results to tell somewhere in my mind, if it was within my control at all."	Chapter 8 Page 196	I'm relieved that she finally talks about this with her therapist. I feel like Strane was holding her back but now that he's dead she finally gonna start seeing him for the manipulating sick and disgusting pedophile he really is.
"What friends?"	Chapter 9 Page 222	she spent so much time obsessing over Jenny and then Strane that the girl literally has no friends. Not even one. It's kinda sad to be honest.
"Most mothers love the kids too much to send them away, but not you I guess."	Chapter 9 Page 217	she's blaming the lack of love from her mom on her being at that school and having an affair with her teacher, even though she presented her parents with a presentation on why they should let her go to that school. She'd rather blame her mother who wanted nothing but the best for her than the man who raped and manipulated her and then left her high and dry in the end. It's really messed up.

Dialectical Journal 3 for My Dark Vanessa (Chapters 10- 12)

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
"Well, Taylor told me what she knew... Rumors, details Jacob strain shared over the years." "My head jerks back—years?"	Chapter 10 Page 231	Vanessa seems to be more worried about how Strane had an affair after her that was longer than theirs rather than the fact that he's done this after her and to multiple girls. He admitted it before is death and she still continues to protect him likes he just a poor unfortunate man who had bad luck with his love, instead of the pedophilic child groomer that he was.
"...only another round of praise from a teacher who wanted to coax me closer."	Chapter 10 Page 234	Even in college when she got praised for her writing all she did was ignore it because the only teacher who's ever praised her writing emotionally abused and consistently raped her. Writing was one of the things she loved to do most in the world but she never pursued a career in it and I believe it's because writing ties her to her past, to Strane, to trauma.

<p>”Jenny9876: Yeah. There were two. One was about how you had destroyed his reputation and that bro it was no place for liars. I remember he called you “A bright but emotionally troubled girl.”He said that You had violated the school code of ethics and should be expelled for it.</p> <p>Jenny9876: The other memo was from earlier. Maybe January 2001? It was about you having a crush on him and hanging around his classroom. There was something about him wanting a paper trail in case your behavior got out of hand. It seems like something he wrote to cover his tracks in case he got caught.”</p>	<p>Chapter 11 Page 240</p>	<p>With strain being so detailed and cautious and leaving a paper trail it just screams that this is not his first time having an affair with a student. And in one of the previous chapters where they have a meeting with Miss Gail about there rumors that are going around school, she winked at him while she had Vanessa sign a piece of paper stating that. One of the rumors going around was true and that she made it up. That wink also made me believe that there’s something going on in that school where this is not just a first time thing and they’re consistently covering multiple teachers tracks and maybe she’s covered his two or three times before.</p>
<p>“<i>I want you to stop</i>, I think. But I don’t say it out loud—I can’t. I can’t talk, can’t see. Even if I force my eyes open, they won’t focus. My head is cotton, my mouth is gravel. I’m thirsty, I’m sick, I’m nothing.”</p>	<p>Chapter 11 Page 252</p>	<p>Every time Vanessa has had sex with Strane she’s either never wanted it. She’s never had a problem with oral sex being performed on her but anytime he inserted himself into her, her mind went elsewhere or she say small things before like stop or don;t and he still proceed.</p>
<p>finally, he says, “I know that’s what you believe”</p>	<p>Chapter 12 Page 284</p>	<p>I think Strane truly doesn’t believe he ruined Vanessa's life, he really convinced himself that he had no control over his actions.</p>

Dialectical Journal 4 for My Dark Vanessa (Chapters 14-17)

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
<p>“ He keeps calling, but I’m out of reach. I’m a speckled seal swimming past the breakers, a seabird with a wingspan so strong I can fly for miles. I’m the new moon, hidden and safe from him, from everyone.</p>	<p>Chapter 14 Page 276</p>	<p>Everytime she has sex with Strane, when she was younger and in the present she’s never mentally there. She’s always somewhere far away from him mentally while he’s inside her physically. Seems as though her heart was always in it but her mind and body knew it was wrong.</p>
<p>“Being subjected to that kind of humiliation would have been scary.”</p>	<p>Chapter 14 Page 279</p>	<p>She literally had to stand in front of people at school and say that she lied about an affair with her teacher and answer questions that the students had before she packed her things and left the school, but she can’t imagine the humiliation of a guy rejecting her after giving him a blowjob. That’s kinda funny in a messed up way.</p>

In order to create an editable version of this template that may be used for assignments, you will need to select File>Make a Copy.

“He reached out and patted her knee. He meant it to be reassuring.”	chapter 14 Page 302	He started her affair by reaching out and patting her knee. How did this not click in her head?
“ I close my eyes as he strokes my hair and calls her terrible names: a liar, a little bitch, emotionally troubled”		He called vanessa emotionally trouble in the letters he gave the principal to cover his tracks, again how is this no clicking.
“He made sure i said yes to everything, especially when i was younger”	Chapter 15	He made sure she said yes but never made sure if she was really okay with it.
“And I didn’t understand it, didn’t ask for it.”	Chapter 15 Page	Nobody asks for it, but she never spoke up and told anyone either.
“ You really don’t need to worry,” I say “What happened to that girl is nothing like what happened to me.”	Chapter 16 Page 326	Just because it’s not exactly the same doesn’t mean it’s not as important. He’s molesting 14-15 year old girls. Do win playing it because something different happened to her is a huge no, its like saying the other girls’s voices and stories don’t matter because her story (which she refuses to tell) was way worse.

Quote/Passage/Summary/Paraphrase	Location	Connection
“He spread my legs, buries his face into me, and there are tears in my eyes, on my cheek. It’s my birthday in two days. I’ll be twenty-two. Seven years of my life defined by this.”	Chapter 16 Page 340	This sounds like self torture
“ When he moves away from remembering me and begins to talk about the girls in his practice, I follow him. He describes the pale underbellies of their arms when they raise their hands, the tendrils that escape their ponytails, the flesh that travels down their necks when he tells them they’re precious and rare. He says it’s	Chapter 16 Page 358	She’s literally SICK in the head. I went from feeling very sympathetic fro her character to down right hating her.

In order to create an editable version of this template that may be used for assignments, you will need to select File>Make a Copy.

unbearable the way they drip with beauty. He tells me he calls them up to his desk, his hand on their knees. “I pretend they’re you,” he says, and my mouth waters as though a bell’s been rung, signaling a long-buried craving. I roll onto my stomach, shove a pillow between my legs. Keep going, don't stop.		
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--