* Blogging Guidelines*

The following guide will be your helpful cheat sheet for our classroom blogging activity. Whether we are doing a classroom novel discussion or small choice novel book groups, the criteria will be similar unless I tell you otherwise.

Classroom Blog: **www.beckerenglish10.ning.com**

Rules of the Virtual Road:

1. You will be required to do 5 blog posts and 10 responses.
   1. Blog Post: Imagine that we are discussing a piece of literature in class. What would you want to say about the reading? Be as specific as possible and find page numbers and quotes to help support your argument. A blog post should be open for others to comment about and should be a minimum of 3-5 sentences. If you want to find outside information (i.e. finding a child abuse statistic while reading *A Child Called It).* If your post doesn’t offer enough specific info for someone else to agree/disagree/or expand upon, it will likely be deleted. If you ask a question for clarification, you should provide your interpretation/answer and support the claim. Do not simply ask a question.
   2. Blog Response: While a blog response is shorter than a post, it should follow the basic principle of supporting an idea. Feel free to agree or disagree with either the author and/or other responders with detail. Remember, you are responding to what someone is saying in a discussion. If you are not providing enough detail, your response might be deleted.
2. Be respectful
   1. This sounds like an obvious rule, but some people become bolder when they are not in a face-to-face conversation. Consider the tone of your writing. Remember that I am the almighty Oz of the blog and I see all, hear all, and know all that takes place. Think of the blog as an extension of the classroom. Disrespectful behavior might result in punishment and/or a loss of points.
3. Follow Along
   1. The purpose of the blog is for you to read, think, and respond at your own pace. You MUST read what other people are saying before you make a post. If you repeat what someone has said, you must have a new or unique twist (this rule applies to posts and responses). The time you put towards reading what other people write will be reflected in your discussions and ideas. I will delete any duplicate posts that I find and you will not receive any notification. Therefore, it is to your benefit to check on your posts to see that it is still there and to see what other people are saying about your post/responses.
4. Have Fun
   1. This is meant for you to think and understand the book in a whole new way. Try to think of something that nobody else has thought of. You may find a whole new world of thinking and opinions that you never knew to exist, but that discovery is what we are looking for!

# The Burn Journals: Brent's attempts at suicide

* Posted by [Meghan R.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/MeghanR) on April 27, 2010 at 9:22pm

What kind of friends and family does Brent have? It amazes me that someone could attempt suicide that many times and totally go unoticed by the rest of the people around him. I mean it's not like he's an unpopular outcast by any means. He actually seems totally opposite. He appears to have many friends, a few girls that like him, and a family that seems to care about him. How is it possible though that parents and friends can be so oblivious to people around them. He clearly cuts himself as one attempt, and his parents fall for such a simple lie! Then he has a noose in his room and tried hanging himself. Sure he seems like a happy person but he has got to be giving off some signs! Then on his last attempt, burning himself, he tells people that exact thing. "I'm going to set myself on fire" (pg. 16). This just seems so ridiculous how many people screaming for help on the inside can slip so easily through the hands of society.

**Comment by** [Chris James L](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/ChrisJamesLarson) on April 27, 2010 at 9:27pm

Well, Meghan, have you ever known someone personally who struggles like this? They try the hardest that they can to not be noticed, they may have all the friends in the world, but they can still be unhappy about it in some way, and he can easily say something like what he did in the book when he said he scraped himself against a locker as an excuse for the cuts, and since all his friends know him, they assume he didn't purposely inflict them himself. As for him saying that he will set himself on fire, i remember a kid who used to live next door to me who hung himself a couple years ago. Two days before he did it he was going around telling his brother and sister and friends that he was going to hang himself, they didn't want to believe it when he said it, the same goes for Brent, some people just think that he won't actually go through with burning himself, and then when he actually tried it i guarantee you that people were feeling guilty like they could've stopped him from doing it.

**Comment by** [Meghan R.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/MeghanR) on April 28, 2010 at 10:22am

Yea, Chris, I have known people that struggle with depression and things of that nature. I know that people do their best to hide it but when you really pay attention to them its generally fairly easy to tell when someone really does need help and needs to see someone like a doctor or something right away. Yes the excuses may come easily but that's still why people like friends and especially family really need to pay closer attention. The family should've known that something was off with Brent. Well while I'm sorry for your neighbor and the family's loss, guilt is something that anyone would feel in that situation. Also that's why people should take other people more seriously.

**Comment by** [Chris James L](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/ChrisJamesLarson) on April 28, 2010 at 10:34am

But as we all know, some people also don't want anything to do with it, Brent may not want the help that these people would try to force feed him. If he wants help he is fully capable to get it himself instead of relying on friends and family as his crutch. It all matters on Brent';s decisions, he can have a ton of help, have the best shrink ever, but it is up to him with what to do with his life, he was an idiot, plain and simple.

**Comment by** [Meghan R.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/MeghanR) on April 28, 2010 at 10:45am

I agree he was an idiot. But non the less I would never dream of just sitting by and watching my friend commit suicide. If you know that someone needs help then you should do whatever it takes to get them that help. Most often people won't want help because they won't take a bite in their pride and admit that they need it. I can't just sit by and watch someone throw away their life like that.

**Comment by** [Chris James L](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/ChrisJamesLarson) on April 28, 2010 at 10:48am

In the end it is all about their choices, they can decide to go to rehab to get help on that, but yes, they will try not to since they don't want to admit that they would need that help. But you do not want to force it upon them because they might just start to hate you and want nothing to do with you. I cannot stand by and watch either, but I knw that they are strong themselves and they will make the right decision in the end, it might take something like what happened to Brent to make them realize that life really isn't as bad as what they give them credit for. Something like that will get them a new outlook on life, they may be ticked off about failing at their own suicide attempt, but they will look to the brighter side eventually.

**Comment by** [Meghan R.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/MeghanR) on April 28, 2010 at 10:57am

I don't care though. If someone wants to hate me for pushing them to get help then so be it, they can hate me all they want as long as at the end of the day they are unharmed. Things shouldn't even have gotten as far as they did for Brent and to the point of him burning himself.

**Comment by** [Ben L.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/BenL) on May 4, 2010 at 11:06am

hahahaha just you guys wait until you find out how he reacts to riding the short bus!

**Comment by** [Luke M](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/LukeM) on May 11, 2010 at 10:55am

Meghan i agree with you! Even if your friend is going to hate you the rest of your life, its better that than knowing you could have done something to save theirs. People sometimes need to be pushed into things that they dont want to do. I would hope that sometime in the future that person will realize what you did and thank you for what you did.

**Comment by** [Meghan R.](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/MeghanR) on May 11, 2010 at 10:57am

Haha thank you so much Luke!

**Comment by** [Brandon S](http://beckerenglish10.ning.com/profile/BrandonJamesSavage) on May 11, 2010 at 2:38pm

Sorry Chris but Im going to have to agree with Meghan. Why would you let your friend make their own choices if it let them kill themselves? yes, its good to be independent and let people deal with their own problems and allow them to do their own thing. BUT, you have to draw a line when they go too far. And id say killing yourself is way past that line.