

Dead Poet's Society Daily Responses

Day 1 – Choose one of these questions and write a journal-type response

- 1.) How important do you think it is to “Just be yourself?” When people say, “Just be yourself,” why is that difficult advice to follow?
- 2.) What do you think the phrase “Know thyself,” means? And, do you think it is important?
- 3.) Frank Lloyd Wright said, “Individuality is sacred.” Do you agree? Do most people try to be an individual? Why or why not?

Day 2

1. Reflect on the idea of “Carpe Diem.” Relate it to your own life. Is this an idea that you practice? Why or why not? Is it one you wish you did? Why or why not? What are the advantages of living life with this attitude? What are the downsides?

Day 3:

List three ways in which Mr. Keating has affected the choices these students are making. Does it seem like his influence is positive or negative so far? Also, if he was your teacher, what effect would have on you?

Day 4 – *Dead Poet's Society*

1. The movie describes two opposing philosophies, one espoused by Mr. Keating and one by Mr. Nolan. Mr. Keating says education is about learning to think for yourself and find your own life. Mr. Nolan says adolescents should learn to be disciplined and follow the direction of people who know better. Which do you think is the better advice, and why?
2. As you watch the movie today, think about your answer to question one. Based on the way the story goes, should the characters have followed Mr. Keating, or Mr. Nolan? Support your answer with *specific* examples from the movie.