**As you read *Heart of Darkness:* Guided Reading Log – 50 points**

1. Write the titles of the sections in your book (many editions don’t title the sections)

In your log, write the titles of the sections and the page numbers for each section.

Part I – “Toward the Heart of Darkness”

Part II – “In the Heart of Darkness”

Part III – “Out of the Heart of Darkness”

1. Mark 10 specific details that point to the **futility** of the European presence in Africa. Make sure you mark the page numbers.
2. *Heart of Darkness* is a frame story. An unnamed narrator begins the story on the deck of the *Nellie* in London on the Thames River. Note every time there is a shift between this narrator and Marlow who narrates most of the story. Marlow interrupts his story occasionally to address the listeners on the *Nellie* directly and at times the narrator on the *Nellie* interrupts Marlow’s narrative.
3. Conrad often reverses the traditional symbolism of black and white. Find two examples where he uses traditional symbolism and four examples where white symbolizes evil and black good. Again, mark with the page numbers.
4. Conrad often writes of how scenes appear – or what they seem to be. Find three examples where he refers to a person, place, or object using this conflict – the conflict of illusion versus reality. (*seems, appears, looks like, etc.*) Page numbers.
5. Find four references to work in *Heart of Darkness*. These will be explicit references to work or labor . . . usually by Marlow. Page numbers.
6. Nigeria novelist, Chinua Achebe (*Things Fall Apart*), in a lecture at the University of Massachusetts, attacked *Heart of Darkness* as “racist” and had this to say about the novella:

“(Conrad) projects the image of Africa as ‘the other world,’ the antithesis of Europe and therefore of civilization, a place where man’s vaulted intelligence and refinement are finally mocked by triumphant bestiality . . . Conrad is a purveyor of comforting myths (and) a bloody racist . . . That this simple truth is glossed over in criticisms of his work is due to the fact that white racism against Africa is such a normal way of thinking that its manifestations go completely undetected.”

Find five specific points that you would use to defend this statement OR five specific references that you would use to refute this statement. We will be reading Achebe’s full criticism and dealing with this idea after the book is done, so this is the first step that will be used later. Provide page numbers.

1. Conrad uses several motifs in *Heart of Darkness* – images of brightness, gloom, isolation, madness, disease, sterility, physical decomposition, diabolism (dealings with the devil), and violent death. Choose one of these motifs and mark four specific examples of the motif in the text. Page numbers.