

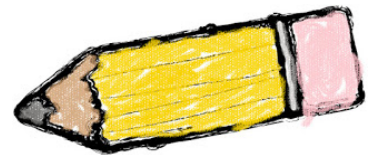
How to Annotate a Text

Annotation is a key component of CLOSE READING. Since you will annotate texts all year, we need to develop a system that works for you, within the following guidelines. Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. Use any combination of the following:

- Make brief comments in the margins. Use any blank space available.
- Make brief comments between or within lines of text. Do not be afraid to mark within the text itself . . . in fact, you must!
- Circle or box words that stand out to you, words you believe are significant to the text.
- Connect words, phrases, ideas with lines or arrows.
- Underline – **CAUTION:** Use this method sparingly. Underline only a few words. **ALWAYS COMBINE** this method with another method, such as “comment.” Never underline an entire passage; if you wish to mark an entire passage, use brackets.
- Highlight – **CAUTION:** Don’t highlight everything.

When **COMMENTING on the text**, I want to see evidence of the following:

- Have a conversation with the text: talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading)
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on lines and/or quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events.
- Make predictions.
- Make inferences.
- Connect ideas to each other OR to other texts.
- Note if you have an epiphany, an “A-HA!” moment.
- Note anything you’d like to discuss or have difficulty understanding.
- Note how the author uses language: word choice, sentence structure, point-of-view, repetition (words, actions, events), irony, allusions, figures of speech, tone/mood, imagery, theme(s), setting, symbols, etc.









THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINT ABOUT ANNOTATING TEXT IS THAT IT SLOWS DOWN YOUR READING . . .

YES! It does. *That’s the point.* If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter without annotating, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway.

Whatever methods you choose to implement from above, **make your thinking VISIBLE.**

To receive full credit for your annotations, I expect to see markings and written commentary throughout the entire text. For each page there will be:

-  Effective underlining/highlighting/circling in all of the passages
-  One thought/reaction to the text
-  One question that you have about the text
-  One unfamiliar vocab word that is marked and defined in the margin
-  Two literary elements (plot, setting, mood, character, symbol, irony, theme, figurative language, conflict, point-of-view, imagery, etc.)
-  At least one marked quotation that you believe is significant to the text