

Annotation Notes

Before Reading:

- Examine the front and back covers (books).
- Read the title and any subtitles.
- Examine the illustrations.
- Examine the print (bold, italics, etc.)
- Examine the way the text is set up (book, short story, dialogue, article, etc.)

During Reading:

Highlighting and Annotating Tips

- Make brief notes at the top of the page to mark important plot events.
- Circle or **highlight** words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Try to figure out what the words mean through the way they are used; supplement your guesses by discussing the words with a teacher or by consulting a dictionary.
- When new characters are introduced, **highlight phrases that describe them** and mark their names at the top of the page on which they are introduced.
- **Highlight words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern** throughout the text. (For example, if a large clock appears in the first chapter, and then you notice the author uses the words “timely” or “ticking” in the text, and then an incident occurs in which a character breaks a watch or is late for an appointment, you may have uncovered a pattern of imagery which will lead the close reader to discover a thematic idea.) **Highlight these related strands** and observe the rest of the text closely to see if the author uses other linked words, images, or details.
- **Highlight passages you think might be symbolic.**
- When you get an idea while reading the text, note it in a brief form in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down. (For example: summarize; make predictions; formulate opinions; make connections to something else (or from a previous section, analyze the author’s use of literary device (How/Why used?); write reflections, reactions, or comments; look for patterns or repetitions.)
- If you have a question about something in the book, write it on the page when it first occurred to you.
- While listening to a lecture or participating in a discussion about the book, write down insights you hear or discover. Writing these notes directly in the text assures you that you will be able to reference the exact passage that triggered the ideas. Also, is less likely that you will lose track of the notes.
- Don’t mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.
- Use [brackets], ✓ checks, ★ stars, bullets, or *** asterisks to mark very important items or things you want to come back to later.
- Connect related ideas with lines.

What ???

Important!

After Reading:

- Reread annotations – draw conclusions.
- Examine patterns/repetitions – determine possible meanings.
- Determine what the title might mean