

Annotation Instructions and Rubric

Before Reading:

1. Examine the front and back book cover
2. Read the title and any subtitles
3. Examine the illustrations
4. Examine the print (bold, italic, etc.)
5. Examine the way the text is set up (book, short story diary, dialogue, etc.)

As you examine and read these, write questions and make predictions and/or connections near these parts of the text.

During Reading:

1. Mark in the text
 - A. Characters (Who)
 - B. Setting (When)
 - C. Setting (Where)
 - D. Vocabulary
 - E. Important ideas or information
2. Write in the margins:
 - A. Summarize
 - B. Make predictions
 - C. Formulate opinions
 - D. Make connections
 - E. Ask questions
 - F. Analyze the author's craft
 - G. Write reflections, reactions, and comments

After Reading:

1. Reread annotations-draw conclusions
2. Reread introduction and conclusion-try to figure out something new
3. Examine patterns/repetitions-determine possible meanings
4. Determine what the title might mean
5. Examine what the overall meaning of the work is (theme).

Print this page and cut out the attached bookmark. Use it to help you read for important information.

Obviously, annotation is as personal as reading, and there are many ways to annotate a book. This system is just a suggestion. For example, some people prefer to use colors to differentiate elements, and some prefer to use Post-Its. If you already have a system, feel free to use what you are comfortable with.

What I will be looking for when I collect your books is the level of critical thinking that went into your reading. So no matter what system you use, make your thinking visible.

To get a 4

For an annotated book to receive a 4, I expect to see markings and written commentary throughout the entire book. There will probably be something significant noted in nearly every chapter.

To get a 3.5

A 3.5 book may be lacking in written commentary, but the "highlighted" areas will reflect significant elements discussed at left.

To get a 3

A 3 book may be missing some significant elements, but will still be highlighted generally throughout the book showing your basic understanding of the characters and plot.

Lower grades will reflect a lack of reading, possibly in skipped sections or random highlights of insignificant material.