

Guidelines for Annotation

Critical Thinking and Active Reading Demonstration:

1. **Full range of "meaning-making" strategies** (connect, reflect, evaluate, compare/contrast, ask questions, predict, apply, conclude, summary or re-statement) employed consistently.
2. **A thread, connecting the annotations and highlighting together**, begins to be woven, creating a unified structure to the interpretation of meaning.
3. More than one such thread exists, so that **multiple meanings** begin to emerge.
4. Annotations reflect **logical, strong support** for the interpretation, reflections, evaluations, etc., and/or **ask reflective questions** in need of thinking and discussion with **attempt at hypothetical answer**.
5. Annotations are of the necessary **depth/length** so that the **reasoning is clear to the reader**.

Recommendations for annotations:

- Create a **clever title** for every chapter (if there are no chapters, divide the book into several sections) that reflects the theme/deeper meaning, then...
 - at the end of every chapter (or section), write a quick **summary** of the plot (2-3 brief bullet points should suffice).
- Record important **quotes**
- **Highlight** information that leads to **characterization**
- **Analyze the author's craft (syntax and style)**
- **Themes:** Trace their development; consider what they represent, how and why they appear in the novel.
- **While reading**, write in the margins:
 - make predictions
 - formulate opinions
 - make connections
 - ask questions
 - reflect/react/comment
 - identify patterns/repetitions

Annotation Rubric – annotations will be worth 25 points:

Excellent (A): 23-25 points

- Text has been thoroughly annotated with questions, observations, and reflections of the content as well as the writing; variety of topics marked for discussion; variety of stylistic devices marked
- Comments demonstrate analysis and interpretation – thinking goes beyond the surface level of the text. Thoughtful connections are made to other texts, life experiences.
- Marginal comments accomplish a great variety of purposes.
- Consistent markings appear throughout text (not bunched)

Proficient (B): 20-22

- Text has been annotated reasonably well with questions, observations, and/or reflections of the content as well as the writing.
- Comments demonstrate some analysis and interpretation – thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text. Attempts at making connections are evident.
- Marginal comments accomplish a variety of purposes.
- Some lapses in entries exist; may be sporadic

Adequate (C): 18-19

- Text has been briefly annotated.
- Commentary remains mostly at the surface level. The commentary suggests thought in specific sections of the text rather than throughout. There is little or no attempt to make connections.

Inadequate (D/F): 17 or below