

## How-to-Annotate-a-Book Mark

### Before Reading:

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

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

### During Reading:

Mark in the text:

- Characters (whp)
- When (setting)
- Where (setting)
- Vocabulary (squiggly underline)
- Important ideas or information (straight underline)

### Write in the margins:

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions
- Make connections
- Ask questions
- Analyze the author's craft
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Look for patterns/repetitions

### After Reading:

- Reread annotations—draw conclusions
- Reread introduction and conclusion—try to figure out something new
- Examine patterns/repetitions---determine possible meanings
- Determine what the title might mean

## Annotation Instructions and Rubric

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. We're not going to hold you to specific squiggly lines or circles.

What we will be looking for when we collect your books in the fall is the level of critical thinking that went into your reading. So, whatever system you use, **make your thinking visible**. We will look to see if you have recognized the elements at left--characters, setting, vocabulary and important information. Comments and questions in the margins and at the end of chapters also show us your thinking process.

### A Grade:

For an annotated book to receive an A, we would expect to see markings and written commentary throughout the entire book, including recognition of significant plot points or ideas. There will probably be something significant noted in nearly every chapter.

### B Grade:

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

### C Grade:

A C 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.

Your English Teachers

