Summer Reading Program

Marking and highlighting a text is like having a conversation with a book -- it allows you to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages you want to revisit. Annotating is a permanent record of your intellectual conversation with the text.

_Laying the Foundation: A Resource and Planning Guide for Pre-AP English_

How to Annotate a Text

➔ Mark anything that you think is confusing, interesting, surprising, or important.
➔ Circle, underline, or write on a sticky note.
➔ Note passages that generate a strong positive or negative response.
➔ Write questions for your teacher to answer, for the class to discuss, for you to use in future writing assignments, or for you to keep as a reminder of what you were thinking.
➔ Think about the connections between this text and other texts you have read, information from other classes, other books, TV shows and movies, song lyrics, and personal experiences.
➔ Note how the author uses language. Refer to the list of common literary devices.
➔ Use brackets to set aside large sections of text.
➔ Use the space in the margins to make comments, define words, and ask questions.
➔ Get creative with your annotations. Use different colored pens, asterisks, circles, boxes, triangles, squiggly lines, stars, etc.
Common Literary Devices

**Alliteration**
The practice of beginning several consecutive or neighboring words with the same sound: e.g., “The twisting trout twinkled below.”

**Allusion**
A reference to a mythological, literary, or historical person, place, or thing: e.g., “He met his Waterloo.”

**Flashback**
A scene that interrupts the action of a work to show a previous event.

**Foreshadowing**
The use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest future action.

**Hyperbole**
A deliberate, extravagant, and often outrageous exaggeration; it may be used for either serious or comic effect: e.g., “The shot heard ‘round the world.”

**Idiom**
An accepted phrase or expression having a meaning different from the literal: e.g., “to drive someone up the wall.”

**Imagery**
The words or phrases a writer uses that appeal to the senses.

**Irony**
There are three types:

- **Verbal irony:** when a speaker or narrator says one thing while meaning the opposite; sarcasm is a form of verbal irony: e.g., “It is easy to stop smoking. I’ve done it many times.”

- **Situational irony:** when a situation turns out differently from what one would normally expect; often the twist is oddly appropriate: e.g., a deep sea diver drowning in a bathtub is ironic.

- **Dramatic irony:** when a character or speaker says or does something that has different meaning from what he or she thinks it means, though the audience and other characters understand the full implications: e.g., Anne Frank looks forward to growing up, but we, as readers, know that it will never be.

**Metaphor**
A comparison of two unlike things not using “like” or “as”: e.g., “Time is money.”

**Mood**
The atmosphere or predominant emotion in a literary work.

**Oxymoron**
A form of paradox that combines a pair of opposite terms into a single unusual
expression: e.g., “sweet sorrow” or “cold fire.”

**Paradox**
Occurs when the elements of a statement contradict each other. Although the statement may appear illogical, impossible, or absurd, it turns out to have a coherent meaning that reveals a hidden truth: e.g., “Much madness is divinest sense.”

**Personification**
A kind of metaphor that gives inanimate objects or abstract ideas human characteristics: e.g., “The wind cried in the dark.”

**Rhetoric**
The art of using words to persuade in writing or speaking.

**Simile**
A comparison of two different things or ideas using words such as “like” or “as”: e.g., “The warrior fought like a lion.”

**Suspense**
A quality that makes the reader or audience uncertain or tense about the outcome of events.

**Symbol**
Any object, person, place, or action that has both a meaning in itself and that stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value: e.g., a tortoise represents slow but steady progress.

**Theme**
The central message of a literary work. It is expressed as a sentence or general statement about life or human nature. A literary work can have more than one theme, and most themes are not directly stated but are implied: e.g., pride often precedes a fall.

**Tone**
The writer’s or speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience; it is conveyed through the author’s choice of words (diction) and details. Tone can be serious, humorous, sarcastic, indignant, etc.

**Understatement**
The opposite of hyperbole. It is a kind of irony that deliberately represents something as being much less than it really is: e.g., “I could probably manage to survive on a salary of two million dollars per year.”