



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	<p>There are three types:</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.”