Summer Assignment: Active Reading and Annotating

**What is Active Reading?**

Active reading is a style of reading that requires students to be more engaged with the material at hand. By participating in deeper engagement, students are able to pull more from a text and create deeper connections to it.

**What Does Active Reading Look Like?**

For this assignment, active reading means ANNOTATING, or interacting with a text through margin notes. Think of these margin notes as having a “conversation” with the text. You can deliberately engage the author by asking questions, stopping to argue, offering a compliment, or seeking to clarify an important issue. This helps a reader engage in a deeper reading, which also develops a lasting understanding of the text.

**Annotation Procedures:**

1. **Your book MAY NOT have previous annotations already written in it**
2. You MUST annotate in pen, and it MUST be legible!
3. As you read, interact with the text. Underline important information and quotes that stand out to you, **and then add written comments explaining WHY those passages struck you as important.** 
   1. Ask questions – make predictions – write reactions – have a conversation with the book.
   2. **BE WARNED!** **Highlighting, underlining, or circling BY ITSELF is NOT enough! You must add quality commentary for an annotation to earn credit!**

**Ways to Annotate:**

* Discuss what you think is significant about the book title or chapter titles
* Define unfamiliar words or slang
* Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or moment.
* Make connections to other parts of the book: predict outcomes, suggest endings, etc.
* Ask questions directly to the author or characters. Identify answers if they occur on later pages!
* Make connections to other texts you've read or seen. This could be movies, comic books/graphic novels, news events, other books, stories, plays, songs, poems, etc.
* Draw a picture when a visual connection is appropriate.
* Make meaningful connections to your own life experiences.
* Identify the author's perspective on a subject; discuss YOUR perspective on it, as well!
* Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs that are used in the passage.
* Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.
* Point out and discuss literary techniques that the author is using, like symbols, metaphors, etc.
* Identify important conflicts, and note how they shape the story
* Identify themes, or discuss the way a specific scene affects the theme