

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. Students are expected to write a minimum of one annotation on every other page of their assigned novel.
4. As you read, interact with the text. Underline important information and quotes that stand out to you, and then add comments explaining WHY those passages struck you as important.
 - a. Ask questions – make predictions – write reactions – have a conversation with the book.
 - b. **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