**A Reader’s Guide to Annotation**

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.

As you work with your text, think about all the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. What follows are some suggestions that will help with annotating.

~Plan on reading most passages, if not everything, twice. The first time, read for overall meaning and impressions. The second time, read more carefully. Mark ideas, new vocabulary, etc.

~Begin to annotate. Use a pen, pencil, post-it notes, or a highlighter (although use it sparingly!).

\*Summarize important ideas in your own words.

\*Add examples from real life, other books, TV, movies, and so forth.

\*Define words that are new to you.

\*Mark passages that you find confusing with a ???

\*Write questions that you might have for later discussion in class.

\*Comment on the actions or development of characters.

\*Comment on things that intrigue, impress, surprise, disturb, etc.

\*Note how the author uses language. A list of possible literary devices is attached.

\*Feel free to draw picture when a visual connection is appropriate

\*Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs used in the passage.

~Suggested methods for marking a text:

\*If you are a person who finds it difficult to write in margins, you may want to use post it notes.

\*If you feel really creative, or are just super organized, you can even color code your annotations by using different color post-its, highlighters, or pens.

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