

Core B: Annotation Checklist

This sheet is a supplemental tool to help guide you in the annotation process. Use this checklist to help you evaluate your own annotation tendencies. Which types of annotations do you rely on the most? Which types do you add only occasionally? Which types are you missing altogether? Challenge yourself with each assignment to expand your annotation skills.

- Title and Author:** add observations and questions
- Define:** unfamiliar words should be marked (highlight, underline, etc.) and defined
- Setting:** time, location, environment, weather, culture, etc.
- Plot**
 - Chapter summaries; note important events and why they are important
 - Predictions
 - Plot Structure: exposition, rising action, conflict, point of view, etc.
 - Plot Devices: allusion, flashback, foreshadowing, irony, suspense, etc.
- Characters**
 - Types: protagonist, antagonist, foil, etc.
 - Traits: think descriptive adjectives
 - Development/Changes
 - New Characters Introduced
 - Aliases
- Literary Devices:** metaphor, simile, imagery, alliteration, symbol, etc.
- Questions** (Written out, not just a “?”) with **Answers** (or at least attempts)
- Repetition:** of words, phrases, or events. What is the significance? Symbol? Theme?
- Theme:** What deeper message is the author trying to communicate.
- Worldview:** Inferences and guesses about the author’s beliefs.
- Personal Reactions**
 - Your personal reaction to the story and its message.
 - Your personal reactions to characters and events. Agree/Disagree?
 - Connections between the story and your own experience (This reminds me of...)
 - Favorite passages (be sure to note why)
- Discussion Topics:** What would you like to discuss in class?

Annotation Reminders:

- Do not use regular, gray pencil. Use colored pencils, pens, highlighters, and/or post it notes.
- Every marked word or passage (highlighted, underlined, circled, etc.) should be accompanied by a comment in the margin. Marking alone is not sufficient for annotations and will not receive credit.
- Avoid one or two word exclamations. They rarely count as quality annotations. (Examples: Wow! Ha! No! No Way! Boo! Gross! Awesome! Oh, No!)