



Annotation

Foundation Lesson – High School

Highlighting and Annotation Tips

1. Make brief notes at the top of the page or on sticky notes to mark important plot events.
2. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Try to figure out what the words mean through the way they are used; supplement your guesses by discussing the words with a teacher or by consulting a dictionary.
3. When new characters are introduced, highlight phrases that describe them.
4. Highlight words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern throughout the text.
For example, if a large clock appears in the first chapter, and then you notice the author using the words “timely” or “ticking” in the text, and then an incident occurs in which a character breaks a watch or is late for an appointment, you may have uncovered a pattern of imagery that will lead the close reader to discover a thematic idea. Highlight these related strands and observe the rest of the text closely to see if the author uses other linked words, images, or details.
5. Highlight passages you think might be symbolic.
6. Mark key ideas and note briefly your reflections about them.
7. Highlight passages in which figurative language appears.
8. When you get an idea while reading the text, note it in a brief form in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
9. If you have a question about something in the book, write it on the page when it first occurs to you.
10. While participating in a discussion about the book, write down insights you hear or discover.
Writing these notes directly in the text assures you that you will be able to find the exact passage that triggered the ideas. Also, it is less likely that you will lose track of the notes.
11. Don’t mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.
12. Use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or details you want to return to later.