

## ACTIVE READING: Literary Annotation Guide

(use with novels, short stories, poetry, plays, Shakespeare)

### Highlight, underline or mark with a post-it

- Search for important passages, descriptions and words.

### NEW VOCABULARY (Fiction and poetry)

- Identify and define new vocabulary words

### THEME (Fiction and poetry)

- What is the author trying to teach the reader through the experiences of the characters and/or with figurative language and symbolism?

### IMAGERY (Fiction and poetry)

- Identify different types of imagery used to describe the setting, tone, **and/or** the experiences of characters.  
(tactile, auditory, olfactory, visual, and gustatory)

### TONE, SYMBOLS, AND MOTIFS (Fiction and poetry)

- Identify specific rhetorical devices:  
Allusion                      Metaphor/simile  
Personification              Repetition  
Hyperbole                      Oxymoron  
Irony
- Pay close attention to MOTIFS (repetition of symbolism):  
Colors                          Light/dark  
Weather patterns              shadows
- Identify specific adjectives used in the development of tone and mood
- Identify passages that relate to the title

### SETTING AND CHARACTERIZATION (Fiction)

- How do actions or dialogue offer insight into a character's personality and development?

### CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT (Fiction)

- identify conflict development as internal or external.

### Write in margins or on post-its

- Character IDs above a character's name
- Definitions
- Questions
- Interpretations/translations
- Summaries
- Personal reactions
- Predictions
- Connections
- Comments

## ACTIVE READING: Non-fiction/Academic Annotation Guide

(use with articles, academic texts, text books, speeches, interviews, letters)

### Highlight, underline or mark with a post-it Search for main ideas and discussion points

- Search for important passages, and words.
- Create your own system for marking what is important, interesting, quotable, questionable, and so forth.

### NEW VOCABULARY

- Identify and define new vocabulary words

### KEY FACTS, MAIN IDEAS, AND EVIDENCE

- While you read, use marginalia—marginal notes—to mark key material.  
Check marks  
question marks  
stars  
arrows  
brackets  
written words and phrases.

### ASSERTIONS AND EVIDENCE

- Identify the main assertion in each paragraph
- Identify key evidence and research used to support these assertions.

### RHETORIC

- Identify specific fallacies of logic:  
Ad Hominem  
Appeal to Ignorance  
Appeal to faith  
Argument from authority  
Bandwagon  
Begging the question  
Circular reasoning  
Loaded questions
- Identify specific rhetorical devices used for emphasis/persuasion:  
Litotes  
Hyperbole  
Archaism  
Antithesis

### Write in margins or on post-its

- Definitions
- Questions
- Interpretations/translations
- Summaries
- Personal reactions
- Predictions
- Connections
- Comments
- Comments