

Annotation Practice (adapted from Grand Prairie Independent School District)

Annotation keeps the reader engaged with the text. While you are reading, use these strategies to mark the article and include your thoughts and questions.

Suggested annotation strategies:

1. Star any passages that seem important: events, details, main points, cause and effect relationships, etc.
2. Underline sentences that made you think, appealed to you, offered vivid examples. Describe your thinking.
3. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or make a list of them at the back of the article.
4. Put a question mark by areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand.
5. Bracket any sentences that exemplify the author's style, word choice, or other techniques. Write your thoughts about the language and organization choices.
6. Make margin notes that identify the primary idea/thesis and connections to Gatsby.

Suggested sentence stems for annotation:

Why did.... This part about _____ makes me wonder.... These are similar in.... These are different because.... This sections about _____ suggests..... The way the author says/organizes/shifts _____ makes me think..... This word means..... What does the author mean by _____ The words _____ in this paragraph help me understand the meaning of the word _____	This is a good point/idea/event because.... This is confusing because..... The character did/chose _____ because.... This is connected to..... The conflict is..... This develops the character/idea by..... The author uses repetition in order to..... The author's use of description adds.... The author organizes this idea by..... I now understand why..... After reading this, I can predict that....
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Annotation Rubric:

<p>Excellent: Text has been thoroughly annotated with questions, observations, and reflections of content/ideas as well as writing; variety of topics marked for discussion; variety of stylistic devices marked. Comments demonstrates analysis and interpretation (thinking beyond the surface level of the text). Thoughtful connections made (to other texts, life experiences, or other events throughout the text). Comments accomplish a great variety of purposes. Consistent markings throughout the text (not bunched). Each section/chapter has several annotations.</p>
<p>Proficient: Text has been annotated reasonably well with questions, observations, and/or reflections of content as well as style. Comments demonstrate some analysis and interpretation (thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text). Attempts at making connections.</p>
<p>Adequate: Text has been briefly annotated with questions, comments, observations, and/or reflections of content OR writing style. Commentary remains mostly at surface level. The commentary suggests thought in <i>some</i> sections of the text. Entries are sporadic. Each section/chapter has at least one annotation.</p>
<p>Inadequate: Text only briefly annotated. Commentary is perfunctory. Little or no attempt to make connections. Not all sections/chapters are annotated.</p>