

Text Annotations

Annotating is a writing-to-learn strategy to use while reading and rereading. It helps the reader to think critically and it promotes active reading.

Targeted Reading Level: 3rd – College (based on text used)

Major Focus: Comprehension

Procedure for older students (middle school +):

Before Reading –

- Examine the front and back cover of the book
- Read Title and subtitles (if applicable)
- Examine any illustrations that are included
- Examine the print (bold, italics, etc.)
- Examine the way that the text is set up (book, short story, dialogue, poem, article, etc.)

As these components are being examined write questions and make predictions or connections near the text.

During Reading –

- Mark the text:
 - Characters (who)
 - When (setting)
 - Where (setting)
 - Vocabulary (this can be key words or difficult words that need further examination)
 - Important information
- Write in the margins
 - Summarize
 - Predict
 - Formulate opinions
 - Make Connections
 - Ask Questions
 - Analyze the authors craft
 - Write reflections, reactions or comments
 - Look for patterns or repetition
- After reading –
 - Reread annotations – draw conclusions
 - Reread introduction and conclusion – try to figure out something
 - Examine patterns and repetition to determine possible meanings
 - Determine what the title might mean

Procedure for younger students (3rd-5th grade):

Students should...

- Mark key points of the text (thesis)
- Mark key terms and unfamiliar words
- Underline important ideas and memorable images
- Write questions or comments in the margins
- Write personal experiences that relate to text
- Mark confusing sections that may require re-reading the text
- Underline the sources that were used (if any)

Student should be allowed to 'mark the text' in any way that seems natural to them.

For younger students a poem would be an excellent text to annotate.

Sources Used:

English Journal Vol. 93 No. 5 - Beyond the yellow highlighter: Teaching Annotation Skills to Improve Reading Comprehension By Carol Porter O'Donnell

<http://writing.colostate.edu>

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us>