

## ANNOTATION TIPS

### I. Purposes of annotating:

- A. Highlighting and annotating a text is like having a conversation with a book – it allows the reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages he or she wants to revisit. Annotation is a study skill – through the writing and re-reading of a few words, much can be remembered about a text that can help you in preparing for tests and essays. Good annotations serve as rereading notes; when you annotate well, you don't have to reread entire passages to remember what was important, you can rely upon your notes quickly and easily.
- B. Annotation is a chance for you to make visible connections between ideas/themes/rhetorical elements in a given text. It serves as your note-taking for what you are reading, and it actively improves you in your reading. For the vast majority of you, annotating will greatly improve your understanding of a text and your appreciation of the way it is written.

### II. What to Annotate:

- A. Make a brief note at the bottom of every other page to mark **plot** events.
- B. When a **new character** is introduced, circle his name & highlight phrases that describe him
- C. Notate the **setting** at the top of the page.
- D. Look at **structure**- parts, chapters, flashbacks, and frame. Notate in blank pages at the front of the book.
- E. Notate **literary elements** that seem important. Use abbreviations (see below). Just because you can mark every simile in the novel doesn't mean that you have done a wonderful task. Do you understand the importance of the literary device? Are the devices **stylistic efforts** of the author? Are they **motifs** leading you to theme?
- F. Look for and mark examples of **themes** at the end of the book. Write a few ideas about the particular moment/passage that depicts this lesson.
- G. Use question marks, stars, exclamation points, or asterisks to mark your emotional interaction to the story. I'm confused. (?) She finally stood up to the bully. (!)

**Don't mark too much! If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.**

### Examples of Literary Elements:

I-Imagery

S- Simile

M- Metaphor

D- Diction

SYM-Symbolism

A- Allusion

F- Foreshadow

Md- mood

H- Hyperbole

Ir-Irony

T-Tone

P-Personification

A **motif** is a reoccurring element that emphasizes theme. The color green in The Great Gatsby is not only symbol but also a motif that leads to the idea of the pursuit of The American Dream by Gatsby.