

# Making Your Own Annotations w/pen in hand



**ANNOTATING** – means marking the page as you read with comments and/or notes.

**WHY ANNOTATE?** – to aid in understanding; to provide you with a useful overview to consult before discussions or writing assignments

When important passages occur, mark them **So That THEY CAN BE EASILY LOCATED** when it comes time to write an essay or respond to the book. Marking key ideas will enable you to discuss the reading with more support, evidence, and/or proof than if you rely on memory.

## SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR ANNOTATION:

- Character descriptions
- Literary elements (theme, imagery, symbolism, flashback, foreshadowing)
- Figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole)
- Rhetorical devices and style (tone, mood, main ideas, setting, conflict)
- Diction (effective or unusual word choice)
- Questions or connections to other texts that occur to you
- Key quotes w/page number

"QUOTE"  
?

## HOW TO ANNOTATE A TEXT:

**HIGHLIGHTING/UNDERLINING** – This marking stands out from the page and allows you to scan a page quickly for information. Be careful not to mark too much – if everything is marked, then nothing becomes important!

blah  
blah  
blah

**BRACKETS** – If several lines seem important, place a [bracket] around the passage, then highlight or underline only key phrases within the bracketed area. This will draw attention to the passage without cluttering it with too many highlighted or underlined sentences. Be sure to write a short margin reminder

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**ASTERISKS** – \* indicates something unusual, special, or important. Multiple asterisks indicate a stronger degree of importance.

blah  
blah  
blah

**MARGINAL NOTES** – Making notes in the margin allows you to: ask questions, label literary elements, summarize critical elements, explain ideas, make a comment, and/or identify characters. **blah blah blah**