

Picture

Annotating
Text to Deepen
Understanding

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Annotation

What is it?

Annotation is a **note** of
any form made while
reading text.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/notation?s=t>



"Reading with a pencil."

Why do we
need it?



Annotation slows
down the
reader in order to
deepen
understanding.





Why Mark On The Text?

When students put things in their own words, they are more likely to remember the information.

It is meant to be an interactive note-taker.



What does that look like
3rd-12th grade

Annotations in Grades 3-5

- *Underline* key words / phrases.
- *Circle* unknown words that make the reading confusing
- *Write a question mark (?)* for questions that you have during reading. AND **write** your question near the text.

Wings in Water

A huge, flat creature leaps out of the sea. It skims over the waves and flips backward with a splash. Could this be a fish? Yes. It is a **manta ray**.

These diamond-shaped giants live in warm oceans. They can be 22 feet wide and weigh as much as a small car—up to 3,000 pounds.

Speed Swimmer

Their skeletons are made of soft bone called cartilage. This flexible cartilage skeleton helps to make the a graceful, powerful swimmer.

Slowly flapping their two large fins like wings, mantas “fly” under the water.

They do fly (sort of)

✓ It looks like its flying! Maybe that's why they mention wings.

Wow! 22 ft. wide That's huge! Is the manta ray dangerous?

T. Modeled Annotation in 2nd gr.

Eating on the Run

Mantas eat tiny plants and animals called **plankton**. The manta uses fins on the sides of its mouth to guide plankton into its big mouth while it swims.

Mantas swim with their mouths wide open when they feed.

✓ That's a big mouth!

Ⓐ They're not dangerous at all!

Friendly Giants

Mantas may be big, but they are gentle. They are curious. They will sometimes swim near human divers, and even let the divers reach out and touch them. A manta's tail looks scary, but it is harmless and will not sting a diver.

Wow! You can touch them!

Big Babies

When a female manta mates, her baby grows in an egg that hatches inside her. After the baby is born, rolled up in its fins. It uncurls these fins, then swims away. At first, the baby stays close to shore. But soon it will fly through the ocean and leap and oversault above the waves.

Ⓢ Does the mother manta ray take care of the baby?

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Harvey, S., & Goudvis, A. (2007). *Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

Annotation in Grades 6-8

- Underline key words and phrases
- *Circle unknown words* that make the reading confusing
- *Use a question mark (?)* for questions that you have while reading AND **write** your question near the text.
- *Use an exclamation mark (!)* for things that surprise you, and briefly **note** what caught your attention.
- *Draw an arrow* ➡ when making a connection to an idea or personal experience AND **note** your connections.

T. modeled Annotation in 7th gr.

I Spy

Sense of secrecy { Charlie Stowe waited until he heard his mother snore before he got out of bed. Even then he moved with caution and tiptoed to the window. The front of the house was irregular, so that it was possible to see a light burning in his mother's room. But now all the windows were dark. A searchlight passed across the sky, lighting the banks of cloud and probing the dark deep spaces between, seeking enemy airships. The wind blew from the sea, and Charlie Stowe could hear behind his mother's snore the beating of the waves. A draught through the cracks in the window-frame stirred his nightshirt. Charlie Stowe was frightened. But the thought of the tobacconist's shop which his father kept down a dozen wooden stairs drew him on. He was twelve years old, and already boys at the County School mocked him because he had never smoked a cigarette. The packets were piled twelve deep below, Gold Flake and Players, De Reszke, Abdulla, Woodbines, and the little shop lay under a thin haze of stale smoke which would completely disguise his crime. That it was a crime to steal some of his father's stock Charlie Stowe had no doubt, but he did not love his father. his father was unreal to him, a wraith, pale, thin, indefinite, who noticed him only spasmodically and left even punishment to his mother. For his mother he felt a passionate demonstrative love; her large boisterous presence and her noisy charity filled the world for him; from her speech he judged her the friend of everyone, from the rector's wife to the 'dear Queen', except the 'Huns', the monsters who lurked in Zeppelins in the clouds. But his father's affection and dislike were as indefinite as his movements. Tonight he had said he would be in Norwich, and yet you never knew. Charlie Stowe had no sense of safety as he crept down the wooden stairs. When they creaked he clenched his fingers on the collar of his nightshirt. At the bottom of the stairs he came out quite suddenly into the little shop. It was too dark to see his way, and he did not dare touch the switch. For half a minute he sat in despair on the bottom step with

Sense of mystery, menace, potential danger, etc

Searchlight - airships - wartime

1st World War

Cold - out of bed! - darkness emphasized

Not modern

'Manly' to smoke - grown up

Brands of cigarettes

Why?

Father does not seem to bother with him - different to mum

Zeppelins - bombing raids

Sleeping mother - repetition of snore

What is Charlie up to?

Mention of father

More info about Charlie

Pressure from peers

A 'crime' stealing, guilty conscience

What does all this mean?

Contrast with father

Something mysterious about father

A sign of fear!

A sense almost of surprise

What to do next!

Middle school
student's
annotation of
connotative
meanings in
Charlotte's Web

1. Before Breakfast

alliteration

WHERE'S Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

"Out to the hoghouse," replied

Mrs. Arable "Some pigs were born last night."

"I don't see why he needs an ax," continued Fern, who was only eight.

"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is a runt. It's very small and weak, and it will never amount to anything. So your father has decided to do away with it."

"Do away with it?" shrieked Fern. "You mean kill it? Just because it's smaller than the others?"

Mrs. Arable put a pitcher of cream on the table. "Don't yell, Fern!" she said. "Your father is right. The pig would probably die anyway."

Fern pushed a chair out of the way and ran outdoors. The grass was wet and the earth smelled of springtime. Fern's sneakers were sopping by the time she caught up with her father.

Sense

plowable

nature

death

plant

killing


goes with

eating in

spring pig

a farm

Annotation in Grades 9-12

- Underline the major points.
- *Circle keywords or phrases* that are confusing or unknown to you.
- *Use a question mark (?)* for questions that you have during the reading. Be sure to write your question.
- *Use an exclamation mark (!)* for things that surprise you, and briefly note what it was that caught your attention.
- *Draw an arrow*  when making a connection to something with an idea or experience. Note your connections.
- **Mark EX** when the author provides an example.
- **Number arguments, important ideas, or key details** and write words or phrases that restate them.

Student annotation in 11th grade English

Tone: Celebratory
Admiration

Language: technical
Colloquial
Conversational
monosyllables

Form: Free form
Digging = extended metaphor of digging and roots.
Heaney digs into his roots, his heritage

Digging
Opening - coming to terms with self? home
Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; as snug as a gun.

Memory #1
Under my window a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down - remembering / to look down on has negative con. but the poem is positive + celebratory

his window - ownership threshold to his heritage
Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away - connections with the past, former generations, traditions
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

In rhythm = In touch with in agreement with
The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

Admiration Colloquial language
By God, the old man could handle a spade,
Just like his old man.

Transition
Memory #2
My grandfather could cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, digging down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

Symbol: peat living roots digging squat pen
Why squat? crouching ownership

skill, pride, dignity - bragging rights
The cold smell of potato mold, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Turning Point heritage
- negative images traditions / livelihoods destroyed no longer available
an awakening of what? Follow in what way?

Closure - Acceptance
Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

Seamus Heaney
Follows tradition of fathers using the tools available to him.

2 separate memories:
Father digging potatoes
Grandfather digging turf - peat bogs

The pen is mightier than the sword.

Reminders of home + hearth
rests, snug, nestled

Onomatopoeia
rasping gravelly
squelch
slap

Speaker - male patriarchal traditions reverent attitude

rasping connotes a living thing

warth potatoes nourishment

in control, precise

worked hard - work ethics strength - technique



Annotation Examples

Annotation in Prek



- Language experience approach (*student uses stickers*)
- Interactive writing and shared pen activities

How can you use this at home?



Read often.



When students are reading
have them mark the text.



Stick to the basics & use
colors

- **Fiction: Circle characters, box settings, underline important story events.,**
- **Nonfiction: circle hard to pronounce & unfamiliar words, box main ideas, & underline supporting details.**

The Take Aways.....

- The Why?
- Keeps readers awake & engaged
- Helps the student process what they're reading
- Slows down the pace & increases comprehension
- Bookmarks the text for when you look back



If you want to be an effective reader,
begin with annotation.

