

Short Stories (11U)

Annotations: a note added by way of comment or explanation.

Annotation involves highlighting or preferably underlining key points and circling unknown vocabulary words. But equally important is writing comments in the margin of the text.

These comments/labels help you make connections to the reading and provide an excellent short cut for reviewing the key points of the short story to compose your own written response or prepare for a test or quiz on the reading.

Annotation steps:

- ★ Underline, highlight, or circle main ideas, key points, important vocabulary, important dates and names, etc.
- ★ Add your own comments in the margins of the text. These comments may serve any of the following purposes (or you might have ideas of your own).
 - Label the type of material the paragraph covered. Example: “childhood years”, “cause of the accident”
 - Label the organization. Example: “introduction”, “first main idea”, “background information”, “Flashback” ...
 - Add your own personal reactions and connections.
 - Comment from your own experiences: “seems unlikely”, “relatable”, “nonsensical”, “he got through that way too easily” ...
 - Ask questions about issues you don’t understand in the text or new questions that occur to you. These questions provide ideas for research.
 - Argue if you don’t agree.
 - Identify literary elements and devices:
 - Identify the point of view and main character
 - Identify evidence of the theme then notice if it becomes a pattern
 - Setting description = imagery and mood and/or evidence of time
 - Character description and actions = write conclusions you are making about the character: “seems confident”, “fear is holding him/her back”
 - Evidence of the main conflict
 - Identify the climax
 - Foreshadowing: identify the hints and what you think might happen or when you have finished reading the story, tie the evidence together.
 - Flashback: find meaning