



St. Mary's Catholic Church & School

Faith - Scholarship - Leadership - Service

St. Mary's Catholic School – Summer Reading Assignments – Middle School

During the summer, *all* students are expected to continue the habit of reading, both for enjoyment and as a continuation of their studies in English and literature.

This year, incoming students will read the texts assigned below. All students must be prepared to discuss their assigned texts on the first day of school. Students will complete an in-class assignment on that day in which they will connect texts to their own lives. Please do not hesitate to contact the school over the summer should you have questions.

Parents: Please help your student access a copy of the required text. Once your student has a copy of the text, please encourage him or her to begin reading on a regular schedule.

Purchase your summer reading books through Amazon and help to donate back to St. Mary's Catholic School. [CLICK HERE](#) to link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchases will be donated to the school by Amazon.

If you would like to listen while you read, you may be able to download a free audio book through [AUDIBLE](#). They are offering books to students at no charge while schools are closed. You will still need a copy of the book to annotate.

6th Grade Reading/Writing

- *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, by Trenton Stewart

7th Grade English

- *As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth*, by Lynne Rae Perkins

Choose one the following:

- *Bud, Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Roll of Thunder, Here My Cry*, by Mildred Taylor
- *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London

8th Grade English

- *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card

Choose one the following:

- *Roll of Thunder, Here My Cry*, by Mildred Taylor
- *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London

All students entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade should annotate the assigned text and bring your copy of the book with annotations to class on the first day of school.



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Middle School Reading Annotation Rubric

4 – Excellent:

- Text has been thoroughly annotated with questions, observations, and connections to the text.
- Challenging words and concepts are marked; interesting and surprising parts are noted.
- Comments show thoughtfulness and a thorough understanding of the text.
- Frequent and consistent markings throughout text (not bunched in one section).

3 – Proficient:

- Text has been reasonably well annotated with questions, observations, and connections to the text.
- Some challenging words and concepts are marked; a few interesting parts are noted.
- Comments show an understanding of the text, but at a basic, surface level.
- Margin notes are inconsistent throughout the text; may be well done in some chapters, but not in others.

2– Adequate:

- Text has been somewhat annotated with a variety of comments.
- Few words and concepts are marked; few interesting and surprising parts are noted.
- Few and inconsistent markings throughout the text. Markings show comprehension, but not analysis.
- Text may be highlighted but lack written notes in the margin.

1 – Not Satisfactory:

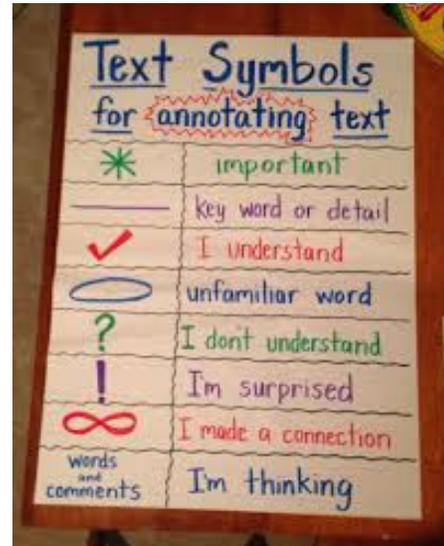
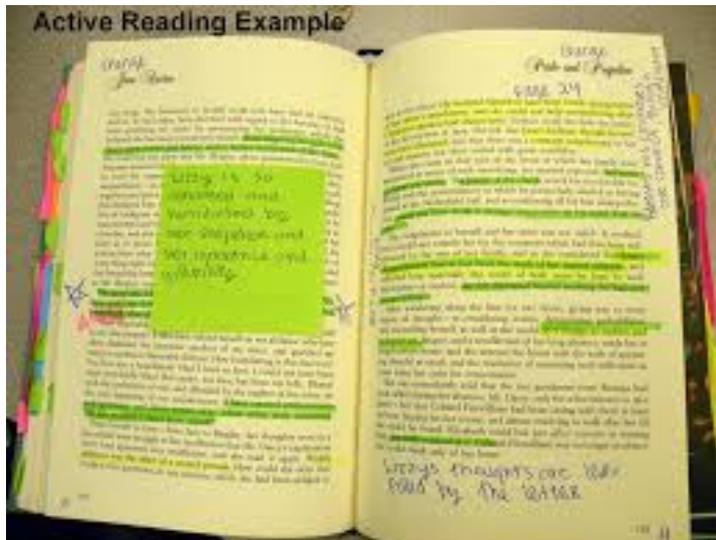
- Student made little to no effort to annotate the text.
- There is no understanding of the text demonstrated by the student markings.

Below are some examples of annotations from other books. Most pages should have notes, underlining, etc., but you do not have to write on every single page. Some pages may have fewer notes than others, and that is okay. Just be consistent and thorough. Remember, the point is to analyze as you read, and to record your conversation with the book.



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Annotating helps a reader keep track of:

- Patterns
- Contrasts
- plot events
- character development.

Annotating can assist a student in studying for a test or writing a paper that requires the use of quotations to support ideas.

Students who learn to highlight and annotate become active readers. Students will begin to notice:

- patterns
- symbolic elements
- contrasts

almost effortlessly as they absorb the text.

Highlighting and annotating a text is like **having a conversation with a book**—it allows the active reader to:

- ask questions
- comment on meaning
- mark events and passages he or she would like to revisit later.