



# ANNOTATING

TO IMPROVE

## READING COMPREHENSION

Annotating is a form of note taking used while reading. Below are several forms of annotations that can help improve your student's reading comprehension.

### USE SYMBOLS IN THE TEXT

1. **Underline** unfamiliar words. Try to use context clues to figure out their meaning.
2. Draw a **question mark** next to any area of text you are uncertain about.
3. Use **stars** to indicate any important areas such as foreshadowing, symbols, themes, etc
4. Use **exclamation points** to mark areas of high importance or key turning points in the story.



### TRACK CHARACTERS AND SETTINGS

1. **Circle** character names and settings when they appear for the first time.
2. **Keep a running list of characters** and their main traits. Add to this list as new characters are introduced or as you learn more about existing characters.
3. **Keep a running list of settings** and key events that happened in each setting.



### INTERACT WITH THE TEXT

1. **Use sticky notes** to write your thoughts or questions in the margins of the text.
2. **Paraphrase (summarize) each chapter after you finish reading it on a sticky note.** You only need a few sentences to do this. Stick it at the end of the chapter. **Give the chapter your OWN title on the sticky note after reading it.**



### USE COLOR CODING

1. **Visual learners** can benefit greatly from color coding while reading.
2. **For example**, highlight settings in yellow, characters in blue, themes in green, literary terms in orange, plot elements in purple, etc.
3. Be sure to make yourself a color-coding **key** to keep track of your system.

