

## Learning to Annotate Texts: Becoming Master Annotators

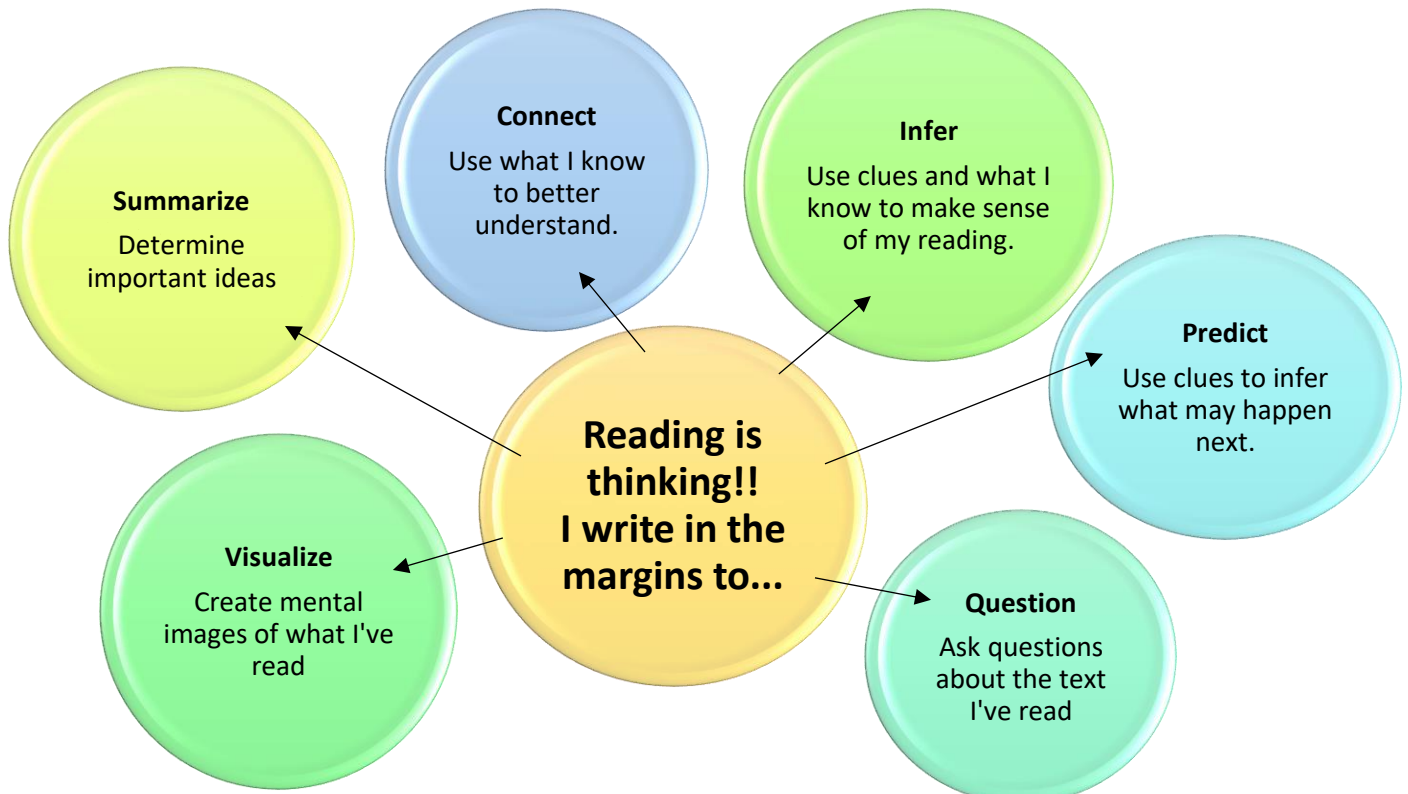
**What are annotations?** Annotations are written notes that show you are thinking about and engaging with the text. Your annotations are meant to provide a record of your thoughts and engagement with a given text.

### Insightful Annotations:









1. **Summarize** a section or paragraph and highlight supporting details.
2. Make an **inference** and highlight the supporting details.
3. Explain how the **title** connects to the text.
4. Make text to self-text-world **connections**.
5. Explain how a **text feature** (maps, pictures, charts) connects to the passage.
6. Mark areas of **confusion** and writing an “I wonder...” question.
7. Clarify what an author really means when using **figurative language**.
8. Identify and label **text structures** such as cause/effect; problem/solution; compare/contrast; steps in a procedure; chronological.

### Annotating Non-Fiction: When should you stop and jot?

- ✓ When you learn a new fact or detail.
- ✓ When you come to the end of a section.
- ✓ When you learn a new word.
- ✓ When you read something interesting.
- ✓ When you have a question about something you read.



**Annotation Symbols:** Use the following symbols to monitor your thoughts while you read.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Question</b></p> <p>Use this symbol to record questions you have about the text, or questions the texts makes you wonder about. Additionally, you should use this symbol when something in the text puzzles you and you need to return to it later.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Surprised</b></p> <p>Use this symbol to note when something in the text surprises you. This could be information that will help support your question/ thesis. Additionally, this symbol can be used to record an area of a text that evokes strong emotion as you are reading (e.g. angry, surprised, excited). Also note what the emotion is and write it in the margins.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Information</b></p> <p>Use this symbol to record when you have discovered important information. Stop and jot down why it's important and how it can be used.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Connection</b></p> <p>Use this symbol when you make a connection to the text (e.g. text-to-text; text-to-self; text-to-world).</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p>When you come across a word you are unfamiliar with, circle it or put a square around it. Afterwards, look it up and jot the definition in the margin.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Main Idea, Important Concept, Theme</b></p> <p>When you come across a main idea, important concept, and/or theme, underline it and jot your ideas in the margins.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Agreeing</b></p> <p>Use this symbol when you come across a passage that you agree with. Stop and jot down why you agree and note if it can be used to answer a question and/or support an argument.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Disagreeing</b></p> <p>Use this symbol when you come across a passage that you disagree with. Stop and jot down why you disagree and note why you disagree.</p>

**Colour-Coating Your Annotations:** When you come across information that may support, expand, or challenge your argument – stop to colour coat the information. This will make returning to the information later much simpler.

- ✓ **Green** – Support
- ✓ **Yellow** – Challenge
- ✓ **Blue** – Expand