CLOSE READING/ANNOTATION GUIDE

Close reading involves interacting with the text as you read. Small details can suggest larger ideas and pinpoint your focus on HOW meaning is revealed. Become a close reader by marking and annotating your interactions with text as you read.

1.**QCC**: Write **q**uestions, **c**omments, and **c**onnections in the margins. When you have a question, need clarification, or are unsure, write down your uncertainty. When you discover something surprising, exciting, or fun that makes you say wow, cool, awesome, yuck, no way, whoa, etc., put a comment in the margin. When you discover something new, a knowledge you did not have before or a knowledge that can connect or add to something previously learned, write down your new knowledge and its connection to what you already know, to your own experiences, or to other texts.

2.∆ **Triangle** characters' names so they are easy to locate on each page.

3.□**Box** each word you do not know. Write brief definitions beside them if you do not figure them out from context clues.

4.◐ **Circle and label** literary elements. (Here are some of the literary elements that you may find: allusion, apostrophe, flashback, foreshadowing, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, motif, paradox, parallelism, personification, satire, simile, symbol, theme, etc. You do not have to find all of them; you may find some that are not listed. If you need definitions for any literary terms, use the following link: https://literarydevices.net.)

5.≈ **Put wavy lines** under patterns or repetitions. If the patterns or repetitions are literary elements, label them with alliteration, anaphora, assonance, sibilance, parallelism, theme, etc.

6.★**Star** shifts or turns in the text resulting from an epiphany, realization, insight, style choice, etc.

7. **Highlight** key phrases or sentences that give insight into a character, relate to the theme, indicate the tone, indicate setting or effect of setting, effective or unusual diction, critical events, etc. Highlighting stands out from the page and allows you to scan a page quickly for information. Be careful not to mark too much. If you feel that several lines are important, bracket them. See step eight.

8. <> **Bracket** important ideas or passages that are several lines in length. Place a bracket around the entire passage and only highlight key phrases within the bracket.

OTHER CLOSE READING MARKINGS YOU COULD USE

a. /Mark off sentences with backward slashes (pay attention to semicolons and colons, parentheses, italics, compound-complex sentences, etc.) This can help with poetry, archaic language, compound-complex sentences, etc.

b. Make a dramatic situation chart.

Who is speaking or narrating?	
To whom?	
About what/subject?	
When/Where?	
Why/Purpose?	
Tone?	

c. Write down the rhyme scheme at the end of each line of poetry. (ex. aabba)