

ANNOTATING A SHORT STORY

ANNOTATING IS THE PROCESS OF HIGHLIGHTING AND MAKING NOTES ON A WRITTEN TEXT (FOR EXAMPLE, SHORT STORY, POEM). FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO ANNOTATE YOUR TEXT.

1. ANALYSE THE TITLE

WHAT DOES THE TITLE SUGGEST ABOUT THE STORY? MAKE NOTES AROUND THE TITLE?

2. SKIM THE TEXT

LOOK OVER THE TEXT. WHAT CAN YOU ATTAIN ABOUT THE STORY PRIOR TO CRITICALLY READING IT?

3. READ THE TEXT FOR MEANING

WHAT IS THE TEXT ABOUT? WHO ARE THE CENTRAL CHARACTERS? WHAT ARE THE CONFLICTS THAT THE CHARACTERS MUST ENDURE?

4. USE COLOURS AND SYMBOLS

USE A COLOUR-CODING SYSTEM TO HIGHLIGHT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF NARRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND LANGUAGE FEATURES. SYMBOLS CAN ALSO BE USED, SUCH AS QUESTION MARKS FOR QUESTIONS YOU HAVE, OR ARROWS FOR CONNECTIONS.

5. LOOK FOR UNKNOWN WORDS

WHENEVER YOU FIND WORDS THAT YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH, HIGHLIGHT AND RECORD THE DEFINITION ABOVE THE WORD

6. LOOK FOR LANGUAGE FEATURES

WHICH LANGUAGE FEATURES ARE USED TO CONSTRUCT THIS TEXT? LOOK FOR ADJECTIVES, METAPHORS, SIMILES, ONOMATOPOEIA.

AFTER YOU HAVE READ THE TEXT, WRITE A BRIEF PARAGRAPH OUTLINING A SUMMARY OF THE STORY AND THE CENTRAL THEMES THAT YOU CAN DERIVE FROM YOUR ANNOTATIONS.