

Annotation and Reading Log Guide

Rather than just highlighting passages, annotating requires the reader to **actively** read the text, to think about and analyze what has been said, and to make specific annotations in the margin of the text.

Annotating is like having a dialog or conversation with the author. The reader creates this conversation by summarizing, asking questions, expressing confusion or ambiguity, and evaluating content.

Here are some possible methods and reasons to annotate:

- Locating and marking the topics sentences, significant points, and supporting ideas
- Underline important terms or unknown words
- Marking, circling, or writing key words, meanings, and/or definitions in the margins
- Signaling where important information can be found with key words or symbols in the margin
- Writing questions in the margin next to the section where the answer is found
- Identifying any ideas that challenge the knowledge, beliefs, or attitudes of the audience
- Noting any personal experience with or reflection on the topic
- Marking, circling, or underlining any words that define voice, tone, attitude or diction
- Identifying any information or evidence that defines the text's historical, biographical, or cultural context
- Identifying any connections to other sources already read on the topic (compare and contrast)

Annotate each chapter of First They Killed My Father. Be ready to share your annotation and reasoning with the class during our discussion time. This will be a ticket to get into discussion along with the chapter questions.