

# WHAT IS ANNOTATION?



When you annotate an article, short story, or novel, you are stopping to jot down your ideas, thoughts, feelings, and questions to make connections from what you read to what you know from your life experiences.

# WHY ANNOTATE?



1

It forces you to slow down and focus on the details.

2

It helps you break down the text and organize the main ideas/supporting elements.

3

Making connections helps you remember the information, which equals better test scores!

## WRITING IN THE MARGINS

Using symbols is not enough. You must show your thoughts by connecting your symbols with writing in the margins. What to write in the margins/on sticky notes is coming up!

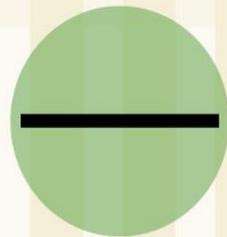
## WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT



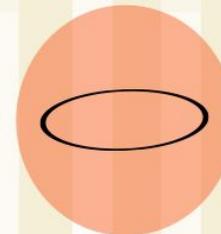
## Use Text Symbols!



Main idea/important plot point



Underline key words or details



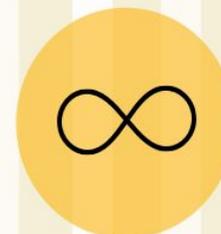
Circle unfamiliar words to look up



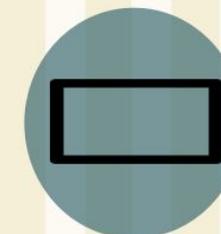
I don't understand



This surprised me!



I made a connection



Draw a box around literary devices



# HIGHLIGHTING THE TEXT



## WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT



Main ideas/  
Important Plot Points: Pink



Characterization Details:  
Green



Confusing Parts/Question: Blue



Unfamiliar Word: Orange

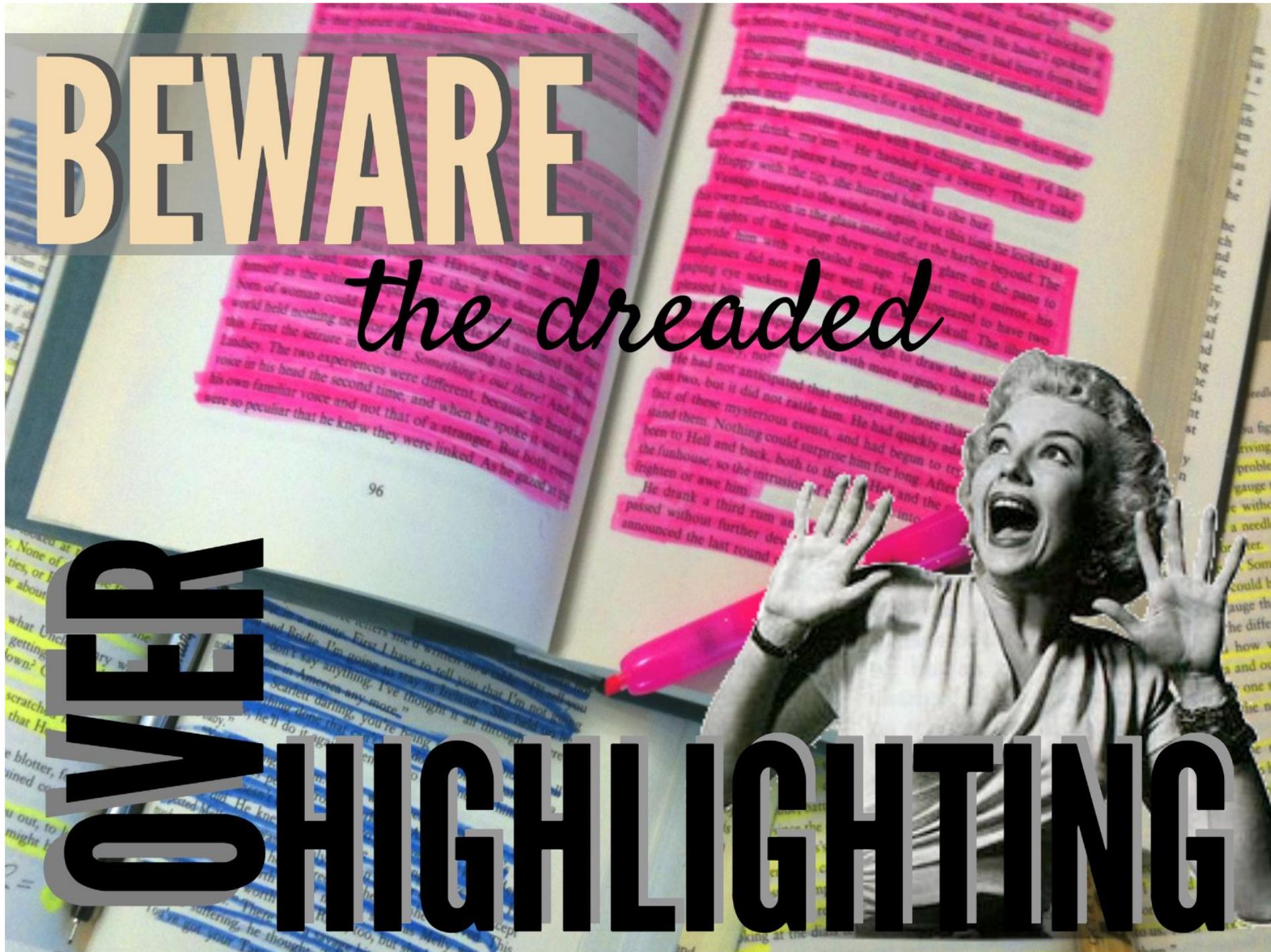


Literary Devices: Yellow

# BEWARE

*the dreaded*

# OVER HIGHLIGHTING



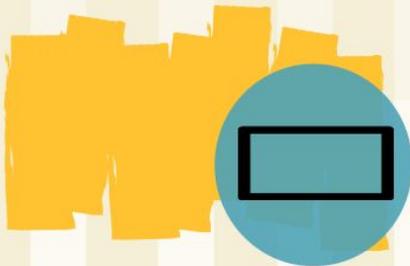
Connecting  
your symbols &  
highlights to  
your thoughts



## WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT

### What to Write in the Margins

#### WHEN YOU



#### WRITE

Comment on the literary device. What effect does it create for you? For the plot/characterization?

Why is this confusing to you? Ask the author a question about the plot or his/her meaning.

#### EXAMPLE

The use of onomatopoeia here to describe the woman's heels clicking in the hallways makes her seem intimidating and authoritative.

Beth just gave her mother the necklace, but she just told Emily that she could never trust her mother. Why would Beth choose to do this? Isn't this out of character?

Connecting  
your symbols &  
highlights to  
your thoughts



## WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT

### What to Write in the Margins

#### WHEN YOU



#### WRITE

Jot down any connections to other texts, movies, historic/current events, or your own life experiences.

Explain what surprised you. Is this what the author hoped you would feel? How did the author create this feeling in you? Do you agree or disagree with an idea being presented?

#### EXAMPLE

This reminds me of *The Giver* because jobs are picked for them by the government.

Is the author actually proposing people eat horse and dog meat? What!? I think he's being sarcastic to make the reader more sympathetic here.

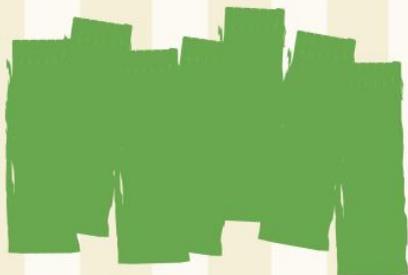
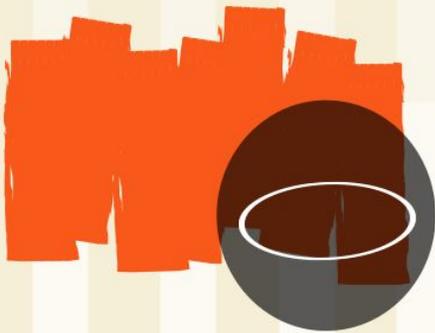
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## WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT

### What to Write in the Margins

#### WHEN YOU



#### WRITE

When you encounter a word that you don't know, look it up in the dictionary, and write down its definition.

Explain inferences about characters and character connections. Discuss your changing feelings toward specific characters. What's caused this shift?

#### EXAMPLE

Lackadaisical: Lacking enthusiasm and determination. Carelessly lazy. Denny is characterized as Lackadaisical in this passage.

Vera keeps thinking about "Hugo" over and over. Past lover? Does he have to do with Cyril's death? Vera is starting to seem mentally unstable.

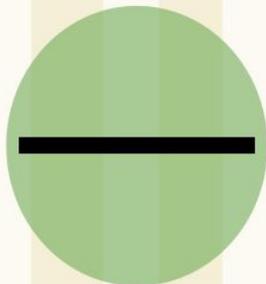
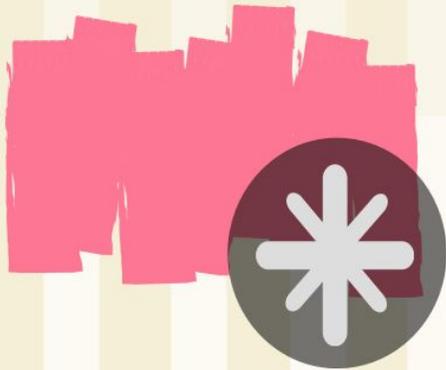
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# WHEN YOU CAN WRITE ON THE TEXT

## What to Write in the Margins

### WHEN YOU



### WRITE

Every five pages or so, check out your pink highlights or stars. Condense and summarize what has happened at the top of a page or put it on a sticky note to put in your book.

Why did the author phrase a passage in a particular way?  
What is the effect of that word choice?

### EXAMPLE

In this chapter, ten people have been invited to an island (by letter) by a mysterious person named Mr. Owen. There is one character who is going to be going to the island under an assumed name to spy on the guests.

The author is using words like "somber" and "sullen" to describe Judith's looks. This makes me think she is depressed and makes the tone melancholy.



# WHEN YOU CAN'T WRITE ON THE TEXT

## Use Sticky Notes!

Write the page number at the top left, draw the symbol, or streak a color across the top, and write your comment on the sticky note. Stick it on the page!

Pg. 58

Wait, what? What is that? I don't get it.

**NOT THIS**

**DO THIS**

Pg. 58



The narrator mentions that the General becomes uncomfortable at the Biblical mention of David and Uriah. Looked up: David sent Uriah to the front of battle because he wanted Uriah's wife. Is that what the General did?

## ANNOTATION IS

- ✓ Asking questions about things you don't understand
- ✓ Making connections between the text, other readings/media, and what you already know
- ✓ Providing interpretations/ summaries, detecting patterns, and making inferences about the text
- ✓ Analysis of word choice, sentence structure, and literary devices

## ANNOTATION IS NOT

- ✗ One word comments like "Wow!" or "Boring!"
- ✗ Notes without symbols or symbols without notes
- ✗ Too much of anything (highlighting, symbols, notes)
- ✗ Notes Without Analysis: Identifying a simile is not enough. What effect does the simile have?