



ANNOTATIONS & END-COMMENTARIES: INDEPENDENT NOVEL STUDY

THE ANNOTATIONS:

- **CELLIST OF SARAJEVO**: select **one** character and annotate a **minimum of five (5)** of their sections in the text:
 - Arrow
 - Kenan
 - Dragan

- **THE INVISIBLE MAN**: annotate a **minimum of ten (10)** chapters. You cannot annotate from the same section; you must choose **two** from each grouping:
 - Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
 - Chapter 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12
 - Chapter 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18
 - Chapter 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24
 - Chapter 25, 26, 27, 28 or Epilogue

- **LORD OF THE FLIES**: annotate a **minimum of five (5)** chapters. You cannot annotate all from the same section; you must choose **one** from each grouping:
 - Chapter 1 or 2
 - Chapter 3, 4 or 5
 - Chapter 6 or 7
 - Chapter 8, 9 or 10
 - Chapter 11 or 12

- **NIGHT**: annotate the following **five (5)** chapters from your text:
 - Chapter 1 (p.1-20)
 - Chapter 3 (p. 27-43)
 - Chapter 5 (p. 63-80)
 - Chapter 7 (p. 93-98)
 - Chapter 8 (p. 99-109)

How do I annotate?

1. Start by reading with a pen or pencil and, if you like, a highlighter. If you do not own the book, use sticky notes.
2. As you read, mark words, lines, phrases, and paragraphs that seem significant. Then, jot notes and questions about their significance in the margins. Remember that annotation is more than passive highlighting.
3. As you notice them, make brief comments about the following:
 - Plot development
 - Literary elements (*symbols, themes, foreshadowing, etc*)
 - Figurative language (*similes, metaphors, personification, etc*)
 - Plot elements (*setting, mood, conflict, etc*)
 - Diction (*effective or unusual word choice*)
 - Images (*striking imagery that helps to create meaning*)

Also:

- Highlight key words, phrases, or sentences and passages – but use highlighting sparingly! Written comments are more effective.
- Write questions or comments in the margins.
- Bracket important ideas or passages.
- Connect ideas with lines or arrows.

This is a sample page of the type and the amount of annotations that would be considered in the *Proficient / Excellent* range.

FIGURE 2. Annotation of "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin

the realization that she'd never see him alive again is finally hitting her.

welcoming the unfolding future/accepting his death.

feeling guilty

this is only the way humans function. It's always a love-hate relationship because we will never fully relate to someone else. More on this later.*

glad he's dead in a half-sies kind of way

it almost sounds insane...

Through death, she finds a new exuberance in life.

but he's still alive!!

but chances are, after her realization of this new sort of "freedom", she most likely wouldn't have been especially thrilled to see him.

*Often times she had not." I think we're all guilty of this at times. Even our closest relatives, best of friends, and trustworthy companions will get on our nerves. Unfortunately, distate and hate are facts of life. Opinions will differ, and actions will upset us. But ultimately, I find that forgiveness gets the better of me. 😊

THE END-COMMENTARY:

An End-Commentary goes beyond basic plot summary. While it can certainly include evidence of "*what does it say?*" it must go further and address "*what does it mean?*" and "*why does it matter?*" While you are reading a text you are annotating your inner voice, capturing your thinking as you read by posing questions, making connections, offering opinion, creating visuals, and making inferences.

Now, in an End-Commentary, you will bring your thinking together by synthesizing your ideas and the observations that you have made. It is always important to include quotations to support your ideas. You seek to develop connections to both self and other texts and situations, and also critically evaluate the ideas presented.

As well, observations regarding the author's presentation style can also be considered (*use of Smiley Face Tricks, irony, rhetorical devices, foreshadowing, etc.*) especially if they significantly contribute to the text presentation. **In general, strive to be perceptive and insightful, demonstrating that you have moved your thinking beyond the basic facts of the text.**

- For this assignment, you are expected to writing an End-commentary per chapter / selections (*2 to 3 pages each*) total five entries. In this manner each End-Commentary will build on the last and culminated in a thorough analysis of the text and your annotations.
- Use the following as guiding questions (meaning that there is much more you may want to address) for your writing:

What does it **say**?

- Plot summary of the chapter...
- Identify the key elements (Theme, Symbol, or Motifs)....
- Discuss character transformations...

What does it **mean**?

- How does this chapter connect with the last?
- What is the effect of the author's repeated usage of Themes, Symbols, or Motifs?
- How does the author use descriptive elements and figurative language to create meaning?

Why does it **matter**?

- Can you connect this chapter to other texts (novels, short stories, films, plays, etc) that you have experienced?
- Is the author commenting on a larger issue (society, norms, values, beliefs, etc)?
- Can you relate to the ideas presented?