

6th Grade Summer Reading Annotation Guide

<u>Underline</u> important details about the plot, characters, setting, and themes.

Circle unknown words before finding their definitions in a dictionary or online.

Put !! in the margins with a note about things that stand out or surprise you.

Put ?? in the margins with a note about confusing things or questions you have.

Put a in the margins with a note about important plot events and specific details.

Grading Expectations

Your annotations will be the <u>only</u> thing graded for your 6th Grade Summer Reading.

This means that you should have at least **ONE MARGINAL NOTE** (either on the page or on a sticky note) per page of your chosen text. Feel free to go above and beyond with your notes to show your teachers the kind of Middle School Scholar you plan to be!



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Guiding Questions for Marginal Notes

→ Who is this story about?

What key characters do we meet? What should we know about them? How does the author describe their appearance, actions, and character?

→ Where is this story set?

What is the place where the story happens? Think city and country.

When does this story happen? Think time period and dates.

What key details paint a picture for where this story takes place?

What would it be like to live where this story happens?

→ What is the conflict of the story?

Does the main character face a problem with other people, with themselves, or with the world?

How do characters attempt to solve or overcome the conflict?

→ What lesson does the author want to teach in this story?

Why do you think the author wrote this story?

What did you learn by reading it?

How might these ideas reveal a theme or big picture idea that goes beyond the text?

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Grading Expectations

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Guiding Questions for Marginal Notes

→ Who is this story about?

What key characters do we meet?

Who is the protagonist? Who or what is the antagonist?

How does the author characterize various characters in the text?

→ Where is this story set?

What is the physical location of the story? How does this location shape the lives of the characters?

In what time period is the story set? What was or is the world like in this time? How does this impact characters in the text?

→ How does the author create deeper meaning in the text?

What literary devices does the author use? What purpose do they serve?

What specific diction or word choice does the author use? How does that language make readers feel?

→ How are themes revealed within the story?

Are themes shown through what characters learn? Are they shown through events? Symbols? Something else entirely?

How do these themes teach the reader a lesson beyond the world of the story?

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