Annotation Key

Use these symbols to annotate your texts. If you use any other symbols, add them to the key.

Symbol	Annotation	Explanation
I	imagery	The use of vivid language to generate ideas and/or evoke mental images, using words that engage the senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell). <i>Example: Tom placed his ear tightly against the wall; he could hear a faint but distinct thump thump thump.</i>
underline	details	Important details that may not be easily recalled but contribute to the story (dates, numbers, names of things, plot details, etc.)
vocab	vocabulary/ unfamiliar words	Define the word in the margins. Use a dictionary (online is fine) if needed.
underline 2x	repetition	The purposeful re-use of sounds, words, and phrases for an effect.
\sim	figurative language	 Figurative language uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Metaphor: A direct comparison between two unlike things, stating that one is the other or does the action of the other. <i>e.g.: My brother's a monkey.</i> Simile: A direct comparison of two unlike things using "like" or "as." <i>e.g.: He's as dumb as an ox.</i> Personification: Figurative language in which human characteristics are given to an animal or an object. <i>e.g.: The wind whipped menacingly.</i> Hyperbole: An exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one would believe the statement is true. <i>e.g.: He was so hungry; he ate that whole cornfield for lunch, stalks and all.</i> Idiom: an expression used by a particular group of people with a meaning that is only known through common use. <i>e.g.: I'm just waiting for him to kick the bucket.</i> Symbolism: When a noun which has meaning in itself is used to represent something entirely different. <i>e.g.: an image of the American flag to represent patriotism and a love for one's country.</i>
	plot	Key events in the story: exposition, rising action, climax, conflict, falling action, resolution
	characterization	The representation of persons in narrative and dramatic works. How a character is presented in a story.
	interesting sentence structures	If the author writes in a way that you find interesting (using many short sentences, or writing in slang, or creating a complicated long sentence, etc.), place a check mark next to the section in the margins.
?	questions	Write any questions you have about the text in the margins.
→ ←	connections	Note connections you make in the margins. Be sure to note and briefly explain connections to ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS and other shared texts.

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