The CATCH Method for Annotating

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step** | **Symbol** | **How** |
| **C**ircle unfamiliar words (and define them) |  | Scan through the document and circle those words that you don’t know or would have a hard time explaining. Define the words using context clues or the dictionary. Write the definition next to the circled word. |
| **A**cknowledge confusion (and wrestle with it) | **?** | Write a question mark (?) next to those places in the reading where you were confused and write out a question that if you could get answered, you would no longer be confused. |
| **T**alk with text | Your goal is to have a meaningful conversation with the text by writing in the margins. Use one or more of the strategies below (see sentence starters for each strategy on the back) | |
| * *Comments/ Observations* |  | Identify major symbols, motifs, or themes (Universal Truths) when you identify them in the text. |
| * *Connections* |  | Connect the information to other texts, other classes, personal or world knowledge. |
| * *Questions* | **?** | Ask questions raised by the text for which you don't know the answers.  Be curious, demanding, and analytical.  Challenge the author's statements. |
| * *Predictions* | **p** | Make predictions based on what you already know… write down what you think will happen later in the text. |
| * *Reactions* |  | Identify incorrect information and/or whether you disagree with the author(s) point of view. |
| **C**apture the main idea (main assertion) | **S3** | Stallion Scholar Summary = Capturing the main idea makes sure that you have understood what you have just read. Summarize the text’s most important points by writing them in your own words in the margins (or elsewhere if teacher requires) |
| **H**ighlight (or underline) key information |  | After reading and annotating through the text once, you may go back and highlight main ideas, important points, or quotes that could later be used as textual evidence for your writing. |

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“Talking to the Text”

Sentence Starters

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| Strategy | Sentence Starters |
| **Comments/ Observations** | * “This is the third time the narrator has mentioned birds. I think they are a symbol for…” * “This is a Universal Truth because…” * “I agree with the author because…” * “Example of imagery because…” |
| **Connections** | * “This reminds me of the article we read in science class about …” * “This is similar to my experience at the hospital …” * “This relates to an article I read online about…” |
| **Questions** | * “One question I have is…why did the character make this decision…? * “How could doctors that smoke promote healthy living habits?” * “Why did the parents choose to have an abortion?” * “How did the brain injury affect the person’s personality?” |
| **Predictions** | * Before reading: “I think this book/chapter is going to be about” * While reading: “I think the character’s next decision will be…” * “I predict \_\_\_\_\_ this symbol will repeat because…” |
| **Reactions** | * “I disagree with the author because…” * “The tone in this text affected the work because… * “I preferred the other author’s point of view because…” |

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