

Senior Summer Assignments

- Journal: Use the included journal to log events or experiences that occur throughout the summer. When you return to school, you will be asked to write a reflection on a topic of your choice from your journal.
- SCOIR: See the attached SCOIR list for items that need to be completed; you need to complete all the highlighted items over the summer. College applications open August 1st. You will need to register for either the ACT, SAT, or TSI Assessment. We will be taking the SAT as a class in October.
- Dual Credit English: Choose one novel from the included list and annotate. Be prepared to write a comparative paper upon returning to school. Use the annotation sheet as a guide.
- On-Level English: Read and annotate *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Use the annotation sheet as a guide.

Mrs. Kubicek

Senior

Scoir Checklist

Scoir is a College Search and Discovery Platform that will help you find colleges that interest you and manage the application process. There's something to do in Scoir each year of high school.

- Take your YouScience Assessment
- Complete your Scoir profile (finalize your personal bio and expand your activities and achievements)
- Explore virtual College Sessions and take virtual campus tours through the YouVisit experience
- Finalize your College Preferences and identify your shortlist of colleges. Consider adding Top Choices to mark your favorites.
- Download the Scoir Student Mobile App
- Request letters of recommendation
- Review Scoir's Guide to The Common App®
- Within My Colleges, move colleges from Following to Applying and Applied
- If applying Early Decision, start an Early Decision Contract
- Record Early or Regular Decision outcomes
- Celebrate! You're going to college

Select One of the following and annotate:

Students who read expand their understanding of vocabulary, sentence structure, and syntax, as well as literary themes. Developing the habit of reading expands a reader's horizons, contributes to overall understanding of the world around us, and also has proven benefits when taking college entrance exams such as the SAT and the ACT. For students looking for other good reads for this summer, consider something from the following recommended reading list:

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
- *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman
- *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak
- *Enders Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austin
- *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adams
- *My Dear Hamilton* by Laura Kaye and Stephanie Dray
- *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells



St. Mary's Catholic Church & School

Faith - Scholarship - Leadership - Service

St. Mary's Catholic School Annotation Guide - 2022-2023 - Grades 9-12

The act of annotating a text involves so much more than simple highlighting. Annotation actually saves you time, as it ultimately assists you in your ability to discuss (and therefore write about) the texts that you read.

Annotating or highlighting can be a record of a reader's intellectual conversation with the text. Annotating can help a serious reader keep track of patterns, contrasts, plot events, and character development. It can assist a student in studying for a test or writing a paper that requires the use of quotations to support ideas. Students who learn to highlight and annotate become active readers and recursive thinkers who notice patterns, symbolic elements, and contrasts almost effortlessly as they absorb the text.

Highlighting and annotating a text is like having a conversation with a book—it allows the active reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages he or she would like to revisit later. The annotation of a text can take place during a reading, a lecture, or a discussion that is focused on a certain poem or passage. The advantage of marking the actual text is obvious—you will never lose your notes and your thoughts will be readily available.

Students, then, should learn how to mark, highlight, and annotate a text to discern patterns, contrasts, and relationships. When readers first begin to highlight and annotate in order to organize understanding of a text, they may wish to begin by following these simple guidelines:

- **Inside the front cover of the book**, list any **annotation symbols** that you use. For example, if you decide to highlight all unfamiliar words in blue, write in the front cover, "blue highlighter = unfamiliar words." Choose a different color for new characters, settings, important events, etc.
- **In the back cover of your book**, make a **list of subjects that the book explores**. For each of these subjects, think about what the author is trying to get you to understand. That will be the author's theme (or message) about that subject.
- If the text has an **epigraph** (an inscription or an introductory quotation), mark that page. An epigraph suggests the text's tone or theme; refer to it often as you read.
- Underline, circle, or highlight (hint: choose one and consistently use it) any **unfamiliar words**. Define these words as you mark them, and write these definitions (in your own words, preferably) in the margin.
- When **new characters** are introduced, mark their names and highlight phrases that describe them.
- Underline or highlight (hint: again, choose one and remain consistent) any **literary devices** that you encounter. This list may include: diction, imagery, details, syntax, similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration (assonance and consonance), allusions, hyperbole, polysyndeton, asyndeton, irony, paradox, foreshadowing, and/or symbolism. Then, in the margin beside your marked word,

phrase, or sentence, write brief notes about how this device contributes to your understanding of the text. Does this device help contribute to tone or theme? Understanding of character? Why did the author choose to include it? What connections can you make to the text or other texts that you have read?

- Highlight or underline **anything that intrigues, disturbs, impresses, or surprises you**. Come up with a symbol for each, as this symbol will help you in understanding why you underlined that word, phrase, sentence, or passage (for example, you could choose to use a heart to denote portions of a text that impress you and an exclamation mark to denote anything that surprises you).
- Finally, **choose at least two passages that you feel are essential to the text**. You may feel that they reveal something crucial about the character, or perhaps these passages highlight the text's theme. Whatever your reasoning, bracket these passages and place a sticky note on these pages so that you can find them quickly.
- Other helpful tips: When you **get an idea** while reading the text, **note it in a brief form in the margin or on a sticky note**. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down. Use parentheses, brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or things you want to come back to later. **Simply highlighting or underlining text without accompanying commentary is meaningless.**

Caution! Do not highlight the entire book. Concentrate on the important elements. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.

Purchase your summer reading books through Amazon and help to donate back to St. Mary's Catholic School. [CLICK HERE](#) to link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchases will be donated to the school by Amazon.

If you would like to listen while you read, you may be able to download a free audio book through [AUDIBLE](#). They are offering books to students at no charge while schools are closed. You will still need a copy of the book to annotate.