

Annotating 101

Good and Bad Examples





Why Annotate?

- ✓ Encourages active reading
- ✓ Improves comprehension of a text
- ✓ Helps analyze and synthesize information
- ✓ Improves classroom discussion
- ✓ Helps identify characters/themes/symbols/etc., and helps to make connections throughout a text
- ✓ Forces you to slow down as you read!

Annotation Goals & Ideas

- Goal = QUANTITY + QUALITY
 - Quantity = multiple annotations per page
 - Quality = strong annotations; multiple annotation types per page
- Ideas for annotation:
 - Themes & Symbols --ask questions/note reactions
 - Characterization --define unfamiliar words
 - Literary Elements --comment on content or style
 - Plot Commentary --make connections or predictions

Can you identify this common annotating problem??

CHAPTER I

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For convenience sake, we have said, hitherto, two gentlemen. One of the parties, however, when critically examined, did not seem, strictly speaking, to come under the species. He was a short, thick-set man, with coarse, commonplace features, and that swaggering air of pretension which marks a low man who is trying to elbow his way upward in the world. He was much over-dressed, in a gaudy vest of many colors, a blue neckerchief, bedropped gaily with yellow spots, and arranged with a flaunting tie, quite in keeping with the general air of the man. His hands, large and coarse, were plentifully bedecked with rings, and he wore a heavy gold watch-chain, with a bundle of seals of portentous size, and a great variety of colors, attached to it,—which, in the ardor of conversation, he was in the habit of flourishing and jingling with evident satisfaction. His conversation was in free and easy defiance of Murray's Grammar, and was garnished at convenient intervals with various profane expressions, which not even the desire to be graphic in our account shall induce us to transcribe.

His companion, Mr. Shelby, had the appearance of a gentleman, and the arrangements of the house, and the general air of the housekeeping, indicated easy, and even opulent circumstances. As we before stated, the two were in the midst of an earnest conversation.

"That is the way I should arrange the matter," said Mr. Shelby.

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Hint: Can you see the annotations? Not really? When annotating, use a colorful pen rather than pencil – your annotations will stand out on the page!

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Two men are sitting and talking about slavery

Haley wants another slave — more than just Tom —

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Hint: Add detail to your annotations! If you only write general words (like "character" or "theme") you won't be able to remember WHICH character or theme you were noting!

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Char.

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What's good about this example?

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Tom = good slave; trust religious!

Haley = racist

ex. of Tom's goodness

beautiful young boy = Harry, son of Eliza det.

setting = Ky.

= grammar rules. He is not well-educated

Haley det.

Mr. Shelby = gentleman

What about annotating Author Bios or Historical Background?

Fiction Annotations

- ✓ Lit. Elements
- ✓ Theme
- ✓ Character Development
- ✓ Plot Structure

Author Bio/Historical Background Annotations

- ✓ Significant info about an author/life events that impact writing
- ✓ Info about author's style/type of writing
- ✓ Significant events or people of a historical time period
- ✓ Changes in writing style or content

Author Bio Annotation Example

William Bradford

1590-1657

Because of the clarity and vigor of William Bradford's style, nearly every American knows the details of the establishing of the *second* English colony in this country. With elegant simplicity Bradford pictures the suffering and triumphs of the struggling band of Pilgrims.

Bradford's life was inseparably linked to the Pilgrims. Orphaned early in life, as a teen-ager he joined the Separatist congregation at Scrooby, England, and then emigrated with it to the Netherlands in 1609. Since Separatists rejected the ceremonies, organization, and even the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Established Church (statements that all Anglican ministers had to agree to), their religious practice was illegal. Consequently, they were subject to persecution by the authorities and their property was liable for seizure. For twelve years this group stayed in exile until it became evident that they were losing their youth to the corruption of the Dutch society and that they were having no moral influence on their neighbors. Moreover, they were slowly sinking into poverty despite their hard work. After an ill-fated start, they sailed aboard the *Mayflower* for the New World. Their sixty-five-day voyage finally put them off the coast of New England, not of Virginia as they had planned. The first winter nearly destroyed the colony. More than half of the 102 original settlers died during that winter, among them Governor John Carver. Bradford was elected to succeed Carver and from 1622 to 1656 served as governor of the colony except for five years, when he acted as assistant. His generosity of spirit and genuine spirituality greatly assisted the colony's struggle for survival. Although he was Plymouth Plantation's chief legal, judicial, and executive counselor, colonial affairs never totally occupied his attention. In his last years he studied Hebrew so that he might better understand the Old Testament.

Bradford's foremost literary work is his history entitled *Of Plymouth Plantation*. He began writing it in 1630 at the start of the Great Migration to Massachusetts Bay. Perhaps he feared that the small colony of Plymouth would be eclipsed one day by its much more powerful sister colony. Whatever his reason, he movingly describes the difficulties overcome by the Pilgrims both before and after their arrival in the New World. Bradford saw God's hand guiding and protecting the Pilgrims; in fact, providential care is his most insistent theme. His style displays the best characteristics of the Puritan plain style: simple yet dignified; concrete, vivid, and dramatic. His is one of the most readable histories of early America.

* Theme of Bradford = God's Providential Hand *

took them to NE, not Virginia = harsh 40 yrs later died

- simple style = Early Am. style

12 yrs. of persecution

no influence on neighbors

so they sailed to new world

OPP = shows challenges of settlement