**So what is Annotation?**

Definition: Annotation is writing down the conversation that all good readers have in their heads when they read. This is usually done in the margins of the text.

Annotation requires interaction with a book beyond a superficial reading. It involves the asking (and sometimes answering) of thoughtful and provocative questions raised as students read a work. Annotation includes some form of marking such as highlighting, noting passages, references to other sections of the work, tabbing, but is always accompanied by guiding questions that students encounter on their way to closer, deeper reading. Annotation can take many forms and should be included among the acceptable forms of informal writing, but what distinguishes annotation from mere note-taking is the inclusion of student responses to the text, whether those responses be questions posed to the characters or author or statements about the student's response or reaction to the text.

Ideas for how to annotate:

* Questions you have while reading
* Personal responses to text
* Observations
* Highlighting well writtern or moving passages
* Identitfying literary devices
* Highlighting character development
* Repetition of words, phrases, or motifs
* Tone (author’s attitude)
* How events affect characters or each other
* Diction (author’s word choice)
* Historical context
* Political context
* Social context
* Themes or lessons
* Grammar or structure
* Connections to other literature/history
* Author 🡪 Reader relationship (what is the author trying to communicate to you?)