

Directions: As an incoming freshman student taking honors English at Conant High School, you are being asked to complete a summer reading assignment in preparation for our work this upcoming school year. Read and annotate the following texts, and have your annotations ready on the first day of class.

- Nonfiction
 - [“How to Mark a Book”](#) by Mortimer Adler
 - [“Every Trip Is a Quest \(Except When It’s Not\)”](#) by Thomas Foster
 - [“It’s Greek to Me”](#) by Thomas Foster
- Fiction
 - [“Through the Tunnel”](#) by Doris Lessing
 - [“Marriage Is a Private Affair”](#) by Chinua Achebe
 - [“Safety of Numbers”](#) by Lucy Tan

Note: Your annotations do not need to follow any *one* particular method, but they *should* reflect thoughtful engagement with the material. Annotations include both highlights/underlines as well as your own writing in margins. The Adler essay above (which is required), as well as the resources below (which are not required but are nonetheless helpful), should help you gain a strong sense of how you should be interacting with the texts.

Resources for Reading and Annotating

Topic	Brief Overview
Reading Comprehension Tips	The "Reading Comprehension Tips" resource from the UNC Learning Center is a comprehensive guide designed to help students enhance their understanding and retention of academic texts through active reading strategies. It emphasizes engaging with the material before, during, and after reading to promote deeper comprehension.
Annotating Texts	The "Annotating Texts" resource from the UNC Learning Center is a practical guide that helps students engage more actively with their reading. It outlines simple annotation strategies—like margin notes, symbols, and summarizing—to improve understanding and make studying more effective.
Reading for Meaning	This document is a guide to help students move beyond plot when analyzing literature by focusing on deeper elements like repetition, point of view, language, and literary devices. It encourages readers to notice patterns, connections, shifts, and character roles in order to uncover broader themes and insights about life, human nature, or society.
Saying Something	This guide offers students simple sentence starters to help them engage actively with a text. It encourages observations, connections, clarifications, predictions, and questions, with the goal of making reading more thoughtful, personal, and interactive.

Expectations: You should expect an assessment on the six required texts, and you should be prepared to submit your annotations on the first day of class. This material will form the basis for the first few weeks of class, so please come prepared. Your work is expected to be entirely your own. Academic dishonesty comes with consequences, including possible loss of credit, course/level reconsideration, discipline referrals, phone calls home, disqualification from National Honor Society, and more.