

Annotation Guide

As you read TKAM, find quotations you can use to prepare for your writing prompts and mark these with colored sticky notes. Choose one color to mark passages related to **empathy** and a second color to mark passages related to **group identity**.

Make annotations that will help you do well on the reading quizzes. All our reading quizzes are timed and open book, so your annotations will make a huge difference to your performance.

Quiz questions are always based on the college readiness skills for reading. These are the skills that standardized tests like the ACT and SAT look for:

- 1) Your ability to identify **main ideas**. When reading a novel, main ideas often relate to themes or main plot events. Quiz questions will often be written like this: “Which of the following events did NOT occur in the first 5 chapters of TKAM?” To help you keep track of what happens in the novel, place a sticky note at the start or end of each chapter and list the main events that occur. Use your colored sticky notes to track the important themes of empathy and group identity.
- 2) Your ability to recall **key supporting details**. For novels, this often means remembering key characters or settings. Use a large sticky note at the front or back of your work to keep track of who the novel’s characters are and the page number where you first encounter this character. You can also do with with key locations, but since almost all the action in TKAM takes place in Maycomb, you will not need a separate sticky note for this purpose. Instead, use the Maycomb map as a bookmark to help you keep track of the where everything is located in the town.
- 3) Your ability to understand **inferences** and the **evidence** that supports inferential knowledge. Questions about inference and evidence will often come in pairs. The first question will ask you about an inference, and the second will ask about the evidence used to make the inference. TKAM is FULL of inferences. The audio recordings I created for you will often point these out as you read. If you are afraid you will forget them, just make a note on a sticky.
- 4) Your ability to understand **vocabulary and allusions** in context. This part is easy. When you come to a word or allusion you don’t know, look it up and write the definition on a sticky note. On our tests, you will always be given the page number of allusions or vocabulary words you are asked about. If you have looked these up ahead of time, your notes will provide the answer. Often, I point these words out in the audio recordings I made for you.
- 5) Your ability to recognize the author’s **strategies and purpose**. These are often the hardest questions you will have to answer because they demand rhetorical analysis--your ability to step back from the story and look at how it is built. You may be asked about the author’s word choice or organization. You may be asked why a chapter begins the way it does. Sometimes you will be asked about the writer’s tone. Is it sarcastic? Sincere? Angry? Sometimes we will discuss these issues in class, and sometimes you will be asked to think about them in online discussions.