

VIVA CAPS FTW

Use the VIVA CAPS FTW annotation techniques to take notes on fictional or narrative reading material. Keep in mind that most reading tests focus on the CRS reading Skills. Remembering this will help you take notes more efficiently.

CRS Reading Skills

- 1) Identify main ideas, key plot elements, or key themes.
- 2) Identify key supporting evidence or details. These are often sometimes characters or concepts. In nonfiction, look for examples of evidence.
- 3) Identify inference. Sometimes ideas are implied rather than stated clearly. Evidence still supports implied ideas. Can you find it and figure out the inference?
- 4) Understand words in context. Any vocabulary words you are tested on will be presented to you in context. Often, the definition will include a number of different meanings of the word. You have to pick the one that fits the particular sentence provided.
- 5) Recognize the author's purpose. What strategies did the author use to make his/her point? To answer this question, you have to do a little rhetorical analysis. Why did the author use these particular words or literary devices? Why did the author begin this way? End this way? Use these examples? What is the author's tone?

V -- Mark vocabulary that challenges you.

I -- Mark inferences and make a note about them.

V -- Visualize what is being described or referred to. When possible, look up images of what you cannot clearly picture. If you are reading electronically, add links to these images.

A -- Ask questions when you are confused.

C -- Connect new information to what you already know.

A -- Argue back. Question the author's thinking. Be skeptical.

P -- Predict what you think will happen next.

S -- Summarize main events.

F -- Mark favorite lines or ideas and add a note.

T -- Mark important themes.

W -- Notice the writer's literary strategies: word choice, tone, literary devices, examples, etc.