

Teach students a series of symbols/annotations they can use to react to a text while reading. Here are some samples.

Annotation Symbols

-  Make a prediction
-  Confirm a prediction
-  Vocabulary
-  Question or confusing
-  Interesting
-  Important
-  Connection
-  Agree
-  Disagree

Text Symbols for annotating texts

-  important
- underline key words or details
-  I understand
-  unfamiliar word
-  I don't understand
-  I'm surprised
-  I made a connection

Readers Use Think Marks

To show what we are thinking as we read.

-  Funny Part
-  I made a connection
-  Confusing Part
-  I visualized
-  Favorite Part
-  Important Part
-  I made a prediction
-  Exciting Part
-  I Inferred
-  I learned new information

Text Toolbox Symbols

for annotating text during a close read

Symbol	Meaning
	Important
	Key Word or Detail
	I Understand
	Unfamiliar Vocabulary Word
	I Don't Understand
	I'm Surprised!
	I Made a Connection
	I'm Thinking!

Note Taking and Annotation Ideas

Teach students about genre-specific “thinking jobs.” Have them set up a piece of scratch paper *before* reading so they know what elements to be on the lookout for and record while reading. Notes while reading should be quick jots, not lengthy responses. This takes explicit modeling and guidance from a teacher.

Sample for Fiction: (characters, problem, solution, lesson learned)

- C-
- P-
- S-
- LL-

Sample for Nonfiction: (topic, key ideas, main idea)

- T
- KI1
- KI2
- KI3
- MI

Have students complete a Know, Wonder (Want to Know), and Learn Chart independent, in groups/partnerships, or as a whole class. This is shortened to KWL chart. Here are samples.

