# Mrs. Mason English 11RH

## GUIDELINES FOR ANNOTATIONS—NOVELS AND PLAYS

**Format:** Using lined notebook paper, draw a vertical line two-thirds of the way across the page. Record your notes in the larger (2/3) portion. This will leave you space in the left-hand 1/3 to label your notes or to write clarifications or changes as you move further into the story.

Also, in the left-hand margin, label which literary device is the focus of the entry: **C** for characterization; **S**, setting, etc. In addition, label M for main points, **Q** for questions and **PR**, personal reflection.

**Requirements:** For each assigned section**,** annotations should include the following:

* + - * a description of setting
      * a list of main points
      * detailed characterization information (major characters)
      * other literary devices of interest or import (2 devices minimum)
      * essential questions (3 questions minimum)
      * personal opinions and reflections(1 reflection minimum)

**Strategies:**

**For help with setting and characters…**

**VISUALIZE:** Create a picture in your mind based on details the writer provides. Picture people or characters and places. Find dates, times, seasons, locations, etc…Describe what you see in your mind. Change this image as the reading progresses. Make note of whenever you are too confused to visualize. Use the four methods of characterization.

**For help with other literary devices…**

**DETERMINE:** What aids in your interest/involvement of the book? What words help you to picture? How

does the author attempt to persuade/influence the reader.

### For help with Essential Questions…

Pose broad questions that promote inquiry and critical thinking. These questions will potentially be used in our class discussions. Include and label at least three out of the four categories…

1. World Connection Question – connect the text to the real world
2. Close-Ended Question – this question usually has a correct answer and is based on a fact from the text
3. Open-Ended Question – will require proof, group discussion, and “construction of logic” to discover and/or explore the answer
4. Universal Theme/Core Question – deals with a theme within the text that will encourage group discussion about the universality of the text

**For help with your personal responses…**

**PREDICT:** What do you think will happen and why? Look for hints; think of possible foreshadowing. Come back later to note the accuracy of your predictions.

**-and-**

**CONNECT:** Bring your own experiences and knowledge to the readings. Make connections with what you know about similar situations or people in your life.

**-and-**

**RESPOND:** Think about what the reading means. What does it say to you? What feeling does it evoke in you? What has it added to your understanding of people and events?

Annotations for Pieces in your *Norton Anthology*

Explanation: We will annotate our short pieces of literature in a slightly different fashion from our full-length studies. Your annotations for the Anthology pieces only will consist of the following parts. I will make adjustments for future readings.

**M**

List of Main Points

Q

3 Essential Questions for discussion (no change here)

PR

Personal Reflection (also remains the same)

I

Influence of the author’s life on the literary piece (using author information from the biography section)

LD

Literary Devices—for each piece, copy a minimum of 2 interesting devices used by the author to send his message to the reader. Then, label the literary device employed in each quoted passage and explain its importance/effect. (Do not use setting/characterization.)

P

Author’s Purpose—why did the author write this piece? What did he want his reader to know? How does he want his reader to change his thinking or his actions (or both)?