

Summer Reading Assignment
11th Grade
2016-2017

Task: You are to read and annotate *The DewBreaker* (Edwidge Danticat). Follow the guidelines for annotating listed below. Bring your annotated text to class the first day.

Annotating Text

What should you annotate? Here is a list of things you should be annotating your text for as you read. Highlighting and underlining alone do not make for annotations. Your annotations must demonstrate your engagement with the text and must include comments. Use the margins of the book, the blank pages, and Post-It Notes.

- ✓ Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- ✓ Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ✓ Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- ✓ Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ✓ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ✓ Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- ✓ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ✓ Note if you experience an epiphany.
- ✓ Write a bulleted synopsis of each chapter either on the first or last page of the chapter.
- ✓ Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.
- ✓ Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can:
 - ❖ effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - ❖ point of view / effect
 - ❖ repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
 - ❖ narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
 - ❖ irony
 - ❖ contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
 - ❖ allusions
 - ❖ any other figure of speech or literary device
 - ❖ reliability of narrator
 - ❖ motifs or cluster ideas
 - ❖ tone / mood
 - ❖ imagery
 - ❖ themes
 - ❖ setting / historical period
 - ❖ symbols

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway. Approach the work with an open mind. Let it inspire you and stretch your imagination.