

# CATCH Annotations

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**C:** Circle unfamiliar words, connotations of words, or specific words used, providing definitions or comments in the margin/ on your post-it.

**A:** Acknowledge confusion or curiosity. Underline sentences or passages that are confusing or provoke curiosity, writing questions or comments about your confusion/ curiosity.

**T:** Talk with the text, by doing the following:

- Make comments
- Make predictions
- Mark literary devices (significant!)
- Make observations about the character or the author
- Connect to other novels/ real life/ your life
- Write reactions, or draw symbols to show how you feel (symbols, though, won't count for points)
- Choose quotes that stand out to you, and write why in the margin

**C:** Capture the main idea—one phrase of the main idea every few pages (i.e. “Scout goes to school and gets in trouble for reading.”)

**H:** Highlight important passages (hold off; this is the “H”, but we won't do this yet in *To Kill a Mockingbird*).

For *To Kill a Mockingbird*:

For every two pages:

1) **Circle Words:** Must be marked twice. Here are your options:

a) Mark unfamiliar words, and then define them, first, with the guess of the word (based on the written context), and then with the actual definition provided.

b) Circle a word that has a specific connotation (implied meaning of a word, as opposed to its dictionary meaning—words have various slants, positive, neutral, negative, etc. The word “Hollywood”, for instance, holds connotations of romance and glittering success).

c) Word choice: Choose words you think the author chose on purpose. Why specifically this or these specific words? What else could be used, but why is this more effective?

2) **Ask questions:** Acknowledge confusion or points that spur curiosity at least once for every 2 pages. Provide a question that would help answer your confusion or satisfy your curiosity.

4) **"Talk" with the text**, at least 4 times per every two pages. Highlight your "talks" in green, and include your annotations in the margin next to the highlights.

5) **Capture the main idea**: After reading two pages, write down a summary/ main idea of what is going on.

Again, don't worry about highlighting main ideas at this point (the "H" in CATCH).