

# The Four *I*'s Method of Annotation

## Points of Interest (or Beauty)

- Underline, bracket, or mark passages in the text that you find interesting because these are historically, topically, or personally interesting.
- If the passage is especially interesting, write a note about why in the margins.

## Points of Inquiry

- Underline, bracket, or mark passages or words in the text that provokes a question. You might have a question about what is happening in the story, what a word means, or you find yourself confused about something.
- Sometimes being confused is an indication that the author wants us to notice and think through something.
- Write a question in the margins.

## Use of Inventive Literary Devices

- Underline, bracket, or mark passages in which the author has used an inventive literary device like metaphor, simile, personification, allusions to the Bible or other well-known texts, analogy, etc.
- In the margins suggest why the author might have used this device.

## Points of Interpretation

- Underline, bracket, or mark passages that you find important to the overall themes or motifs of the text.
- Connect two or more passages together and suggest how these passages relate.
- Summarize a passage, a page, a section, or an entire chapter in the margins.

## A well-annotated reading will have the following qualities:

- The text is carefully underlined or marked with thought being given to which passages are more important.
- By summarizing key passages, the margin notes serve as an insightful, accurate, and abbreviated outline of the text.
- In the end, the margin notes indicate that the student has kept a running record of his or her own thoughts, insights, confusions and questions.