

## English 10 • FAHRENHEIT 451 • Guide to Annotation

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annotate — v. to furnish (a literary work) with critical commentary or explanatory notes.

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Highlighting and annotating a text is like having a conversation with a book – it allows the active reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages he or she wants to revisit. Careful readers often annotate their texts. Here are some suggestions for how to make notes in your novels.

Some of these terms may not be immediately familiar to you, but as an independent learner, you should be able to research and find definitions and examples to help you.

Be prepared to use annotations and notes marked in your novels as a resource during your essay test, graded discussions, etc.

*Hint: Taking the time to annotate your novel closely may aid in your success on the tests.*



### Inside Front Cover

Character list with small space for character summary and for page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

### Inside Back Cover

Themes, allusions, symbols. List and add page references and/or notes as you read. *F451* is filled with allusions! Also don't forget to mark examples on your *F451* literary terms handout.

### Chapter Summaries/Titles

At the end of each part, write a brief summary of the plot as it occurred in the part. *Fahrenheit 451* is divided into three parts, so you should do this for each part. There is plenty of space at the beginning and end of each part to complete the summary.

### Highlight

Within the text of the book, and as you read, highlight or otherwise note anything that strikes you as important, significant, or memorable. If possible, write brief comments in the side margins that indicate your motivation in underlining. Focus on elements of literature (plot, setting, characterization, point of view, and theme). Explain the significance of the highlighted text in the margin in a few words. Note questions or comments about the text in the margins. These will lead to class discussion opportunities (we will have graded discussions for each part). You can use post-it notes, flags, highlighter, etc...but make sure that you indicate why each notation is worth marking.

### Vocabulary/Unusual Diction

Within the text of the book, circle words that are unfamiliar to you or that strike you as unusual or inventive. Look up words in a dictionary that seem essential to the understanding of the meaning. Remember to look for your vocabulary words within the novel, marking the page numbers on which you see them.