

ENG IV

Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Choose ONE book to read and annotate over the summer. Assessment of your reading will take place in the first week of school in the form of a test and/or writing assignment. You will only be allowed the use of your ANNOTATED text for the assessment(s). An additional grade will be given for your annotations.

Step 1: Choose a book

- *First They Killed My Father* by Loung Ung
- *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

Step 2: Read the book

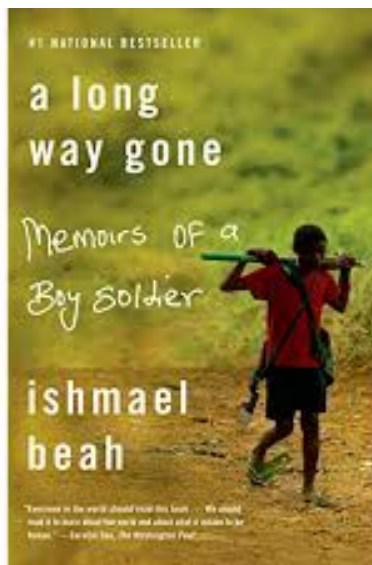
- Annotate as you read using the ANNOTATION GUIDE below.
- Annotate the entire book. Aim for 2 - 3 annotations per chapter.
- If you cannot write in the book, use sticky notes for your annotations.

Step 3: Bring the book to class

- You must have your annotated book with you on the first day of class.


Step 4: Assessment

- Be prepared for an in-class test and/or writing assignment or project in the first week of class.



Annotation Guide

an·no·tate

/ˈænəˌtāt/ 

verb

gerund or present participle: **annotating**

add notes to (a text or diagram) giving explanation or comment.

"documentation should be annotated with explanatory notes"

synonyms: comment on, add notes/footnotes to, **gloss**, **interpret**, mark up

"annotate the text in Chapters 4 and 5"

Annotating, as the definition above indicates, is the act of **ADDING NOTES** that explain or offer commentary. Annotating is **NOT** underlining and highlighting. Underlining and highlighting are just that, underlining and highlighting. They are meaningless acts **UNLESS** you annotate as you underline and highlight to offer an explanation or comment that indicates **WHY** you underlined and highlighted what you did.

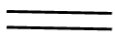
How to Annotate:

- Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Mark key lines: Any time you read a passage that is significant to the plot or character development, underline it and write a brief note to yourself in the margin describing the passage and/or why it is important.
- Ask questions: If a passage or scene is confusing, or if you want to know more about what is occurring, bracket the passage or scene and jot your question in the margin.
- React to what you read: If something in the text strikes you, surprises you, troubles you, or even makes you laugh, mark it and write your reaction in the margin.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Track themes: As you read, you will begin to discern the text's threads or themes. Once you notice them, you can begin marking them every time they occur.
- Summarize key events by making notes at the end of each chapter that list its 4-5 most important plot events.
- Make predictions.
- Connect ideas to each other: What relates to other parts of the text? What relates to other things you've read? What relates to current events? What relates to your own experiences?
- Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs used in the passage.
- Note how the author uses language and its significance if you can.
- Look for literary techniques used by the author.

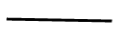
Ways to Annotate:

- If you are a person who does not like to write in a book, you may want to invest in a supply of sticky notes.
- If you feel really creative or are just super organized, you can even color-code your annotations by using different color post-its, highlighters, or pens.
- Brackets: If several lines seem important, just draw a line down the margin and underline/highlight only the key phrases.
- Asterisks: Place an asterisk next to an important passage; use two if it is really important.
- Marginal Notes: Use the space in the margins to make comments, define words, ask questions, etc.
- Underline/highlight: Caution! Do not underline or highlight too much! You want to concentrate on the important elements, not entire pages (use brackets for that).
- Use circles, boxes, triangles, squiggly lines, stars, etc.

Close Reading Annotation Symbols



Double line under the MAIN IDEA



Underline KEY WORDS and DETAILS



Mark IMPORTANT WORDS/PHRASES



Circle UNFAMILIAR WORDS



Question mark by WORDS/PHRASES YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND



Exclamation mark by WORDS/PHRASES THAT SURPRISE YOU



Made a connection