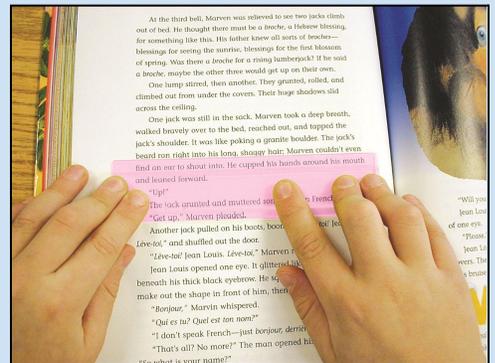


# Close Reading and Annotation Strategies

## Immerse Yourself in Reading

- Distraction-free environment
  - Put your phone away
  - Music with lyrics doesn't actually help you concentrate on the words of a text
  - Turn off tv shows, movies, or video games
- Preview the text
  - Are there any excerpts at the top that give background information?
  - How is the story organized?
  - Do you notice any bolded words and headings?
  - Are there any vocabulary words bolded or defined already? Footnotes?
- Have a pen, pencil, highlighter, and sticky notes ready.
  - Or make sure the proper **annotation tools** are available on the digital text you are reading (like OneNote, Nook, or eBook)
- Use a ruler, note card, or other straight edge
  - These tools can help you to focus line-by-line on the text
  - Put the ruler or note card at the top of the page, parallel to the lines of text. Once you read a line, move it down.
  - OneNote has a ruler you can use!



## Know the Purpose for Reading

- Look at the directions for any reading assignment and create a "checklist." If your teacher has specific requirements for annotation, be diligent about what they are asking for. **Read the directions and rewrite them in your own words at the top of the text or reading assignment.**

## Create an Annotation Key

- If your teacher gives you a list of topics or concepts to annotate, choose colors or symbols that you can identify with each topic or concept.
  - For example, if you are asked to annotate for character and setting, choose yellow for character and pink for setting.
- If your teacher does not give you a list, consider making your own key.
- Think of your key like a key on a map.
- Make sure that in addition to highlights, you also make **NOTES** (notes help you remember and track your thinking as you read!)



## Summarize Key Moments and Main Ideas

- Use the space at the end of chapters to summarize main ideas or plot points
  - Make a bulleted list of major events that happened in a chapter
  - Periodically throughout a story, write a note on the side about what is happening