

# Philosophical Inquiry Text Annotations

## *Philosophical Dialogue and Reflection with Text*

“[Texts] let us into their souls and lay open to us the secrets of our own.” ~William Hazlitt

“The ability to read becomes devalued when what one has learned to read adds nothing of importance to one's life.” ~ Bruno Bettelheim

“To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.” ~Edmund Burke

“A truly good...[text]...teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint.... What I began by reading, I must finish by acting.” ~Henry David Thoreau

As the quotes above suggest, when we allow ourselves to question, think about our own thinking, and wonder as we read, we make reading a philosophical experience. The purpose of philosophical inquiry text annotations is to help us keep a record of our philosophical thinking while we read.

### **Directions**

Philosophical inquiry text annotations can be done in three ways.

1. Write your thoughts and questions directly on the text while you read.
2. Fold a piece of notebook paper lengthwise (hotdog style) and record **YOUR** thoughts and questions while you read.
3. Type your thoughts and questions on the computer while you read.

### **AVOID A PLOT SUMMARY! This is NOT a book report!**

This is a way for you to practice and demonstrate the use of the **Good Thinker’s Tool Kit**. Since you are to avoid a plot summary, you **cannot be wrong** in your responses, so **take responsible intellectual risks**:

- Say what you think something means
- Identify assumptions
- Make inferences supported by reasons and evidence
- Predict what will happen next
- Relate personal experiences to content in text
- Make connections between the text and other texts (primary documents), history (events, people, places), and other previously learned facts or concepts
- Ask questions (using the Good Thinker’s Tool Kit)
- Attempt to answer your questions with reasons and evidence

#### **Here are some suggested sentence lead-ins**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wonder what this means...</li> <li>• What does the author mean by...</li> <li>• I like/dislike this idea for these <i>reasons</i>...</li> <li>• The author is <i>assuming</i>...</li> <li>• From _____ I infer _____<br/>(the <i>evidence</i> I have to support this claim is...)</li> <li>• Is what is being said <i>true</i>? What are the implications if it is <i>true</i>?</li> <li>• An example from my life that relates is...</li> <li>• A counter-example to the author’s argument is...</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don’t understand this part...</li> <li>• The historical context of this part of the text is...</li> <li>• This reminds me of another author’s perspective, when they said...</li> <li>• From an economic/civics/historical/geographic perspective...</li> <li>• This shows that the author’s point of view is...</li> <li>• The quote reveals the author’s biases...</li> <li>• If I were the author, I would have written this part differently because (of these reasons).</li> <li>• This section made me think about...</li> </ul> |
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