General Notation Directions

COLOR MARKING A TEXT

(assignment created by Jennifer Cullen, Beth Priem, and Elizabeth Davis)

Note:  all notations must be written in blue or black ink;  do not use pencil.  For any step that requires highlighting on the passage, highlight your corresponding marginal comments in the same color.  Remember that the highlighters listed below are required supplies for the class;  failure to come to class prepared may result in a reduced grade.

On the passage copy, complete **and clearly label** the following:

1. In the space at the top of the passage (or on the back), clearly answer the following:  What is happening in this point in the text?  (Provide the context.)  Make sure to include the 5 Ws (who, what, where, when, why).
2. In **pink**, highlight meaningful **diction** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) in the passage.  Comment marginally on at least **five** of these highlighted words, considering: (1) What connotations do you glean from specific word choices?  (2) What conflicts or connections (similarities) do you understand through specific word choices?  (3) What significance (regarding character, event, etc.) do you understand though specific word choices?  (Hint:  Consult your Yellow Pages.  In general, marginal comments will take the form of a phrase such as:  “conveys \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”     “shows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “   “suggests \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”   “is fitting because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_”  “is significant because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
3. In **yellow**, highlight the first four words of each sentence and meaningful punctuation choices (dashes, parentheses, ellipses, etc.)  Comment marginally on **one** aspect of the **syntax** that seems meaningful to you.  (Hint:  yellow pages)
4. In **green**, highlight evidence of at least **one narrative strategy** and **one rhetorical device.**  (Devices are listed in the chart below;  the list is not comprehensive.)  Label the strategy or device marginally and briefly comment on its effect.  Pay particular attention to figurative language under rhetorical strategies.  (see hint for #2.)
5. In **blue**, draw brackets around **two** 5-10 line blocks of text within the passage;  for each, choose an appropriate **tone word** from your yellow pages.  Be as precise as possible in choosing tone words.  In the space at the bottom of your passage copy, briefly justify these tone words.
6. Examine the entire passage and explain briefly what method unifies the passage and how that is achieved.  ( Choices include:  characterization, contrast, comparison, juxtaposition, analogy, parallelism, repetition, shift . . .)

Turn the Page for Narrative Strategies and Rhetorical Devices.

Narrative Strategies:

Point of View

Flash forward/back

Events/actions/thoughts

Pacing

Conflicts/Tension/Suspense

Voice (of narrator)

Verb tense

Sentence length or type, rhythm, and pacing

Irony

Language (colloquial, informal, jargon, etc.)

Humor

Repetitions

Focus (of a chapter, of a paragraph)

Rhetorical Devices:

alliteration

assonance

allusion

analogy

apostrophe

antithesis

metaphor (and extended metaphor)

imagery

metonymy

onomatopoeia

oxymoron

parallelism

personification

rhetorical question

paradox

simile

synecdoche