

Our Lady of Lourdes High School
Ninth Grade Summer Reading 2023-2024

All students enrolled in Our Lady of Lourdes High School are expected to continue reading throughout the summer and should expect an assessment on their selected reading upon return to school in September. Because of this, we strongly recommend that you take careful notes as you read so that you will be prepared to demonstrate your understanding of your reading upon your return to school.

All students entering 9th grade must read the required text, **Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths** by **Bernard Evslin**, as well as **one additional novel from the list below**:

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sherlock Holmes
The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Twelve Ways To Mark Up A Book

Adapted by Bert Webb in Books/Permalink Courtesy of Weiss and Albiniaak

Books are a fantastic way to gain knowledge. With books, one can learn new techniques, gain new skills, and learn from role models who have been to where one wants to be and can show the way. There are many different ways to read books and just as many ways to remember their critical points. One of the most effective ways to get the most out of a book is to mark it up. There is no standard way to mark up a text, but below are a few ways that students have found effective in marking up a textbook so that one can see the important points quickly, make it more memorable, and make it easy to pick up years later and re-acquaint oneself with the major concepts.

1. **Mark the text with a pencil, pen, or, even better, colored fine-tipped pens** – Remember, you are not highlighting, you are writing.
2. **Know your preferences** – Some of you have an aversion to mark directly in the text. Books are precious things to many people and they want to protect them from damage and even the wear and tear of everyday use. If this describes you, grab some Post-It brand notes and do your marking and writing on them. This also gives you the advantage to move and reorganize them should you see fit. As for me, I like to mark directly on the page. I find that my books become more valuable to me when I add my contributions to the information that they contain.

3. **Underline the topic sentence in a passage** – Remember, each paragraph has one topic sentence. The rest is supporting information and examples. Identify the topic sentence to find it easier.
4. **Use codes** – Flag text with codes (e.g., Question marks to indicate disagreement, Exclamation marks to note agreement or to flag a strong statement, triangles to indicate a change in thinking, or a star for the topic sentence).
5. **Write the passage topic in the margin as a reminder** – Just a word or two.
6. **Write questions in the margin** – When you don't understand something or when you don't understand the author's thought process on a particular topic, write the question in the margin as a reminder to settle the question.
7. **Circle new and unfamiliar words** – Look them up as soon as possible.
8. **Add your or other authors' perspectives in the margins** – Other authors have surely written on the same subject. What do they say? Do they agree with this author? If not, what do they say? Add these ideas in the margins.
9. **Add cross-reference notes to other works on the same topic** – Use the author's name and a shortened version of the other book's title.
10. **Add structure to a narrative text** – Use 1, 2, 3, 4...or an outline format I. A. B. C. 1, 2, 3, a, b, c...to add a structure that you understand.
11. **Draw arrows to related ideas** – Keep track of organization or connect evidence.
12. **Summarize** – Add your own summary after the last paragraph. That simple exercise will crystalize your thinking on the topic. If you can't write it, you don't understand it.