
Academic Reading

— In-Text Note Taking —

What are we talking about?

Leisure Reading:

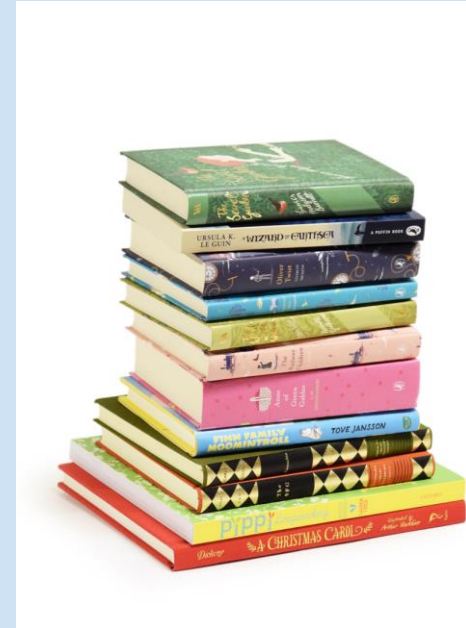
- Done for enjoyment
- Can be done at a leisurely place
- Doesn't necessitate review
- Note-Taking/Recording Info is optional

Academic Reading:

- Done to gain academic/scholarly understanding of the text
- Should be done at a consistent pace, without long breaks, to help facilitate a holistic understanding of the text
- Requires chapter-by-chapter review to help develop understanding.
- Written note-taking is a requirement to support academic defenses and evaluations, often of the verbal variety.

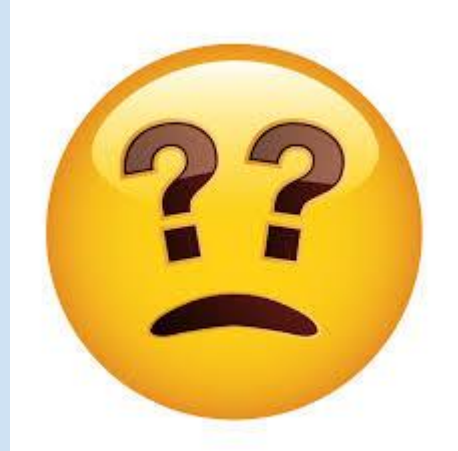
You All Have a Lot of Books to get Through!

The Best Way to accomplish this is to make good use of your time and to have a good system for taking notes!



Common Question #1

How many of the
books on the
recommended reading
list should I read
during the summer?

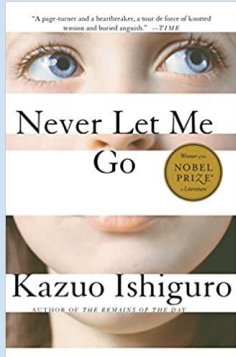


Answer #1

As many as you
can!!!

- But first...take at least a full week off and do NO SCHOOLWORK!!!!!! NONE!
- Then...Start with the texts that are listed first. They will be covered first in the IB course.
- After that, read the one that seems least appealing first. Get it out of the way.
- Work your way through the rest to the best of your ability. The more reading you can accomplish in the summer, the more time you will have to be freed up during the school year.

Question #2

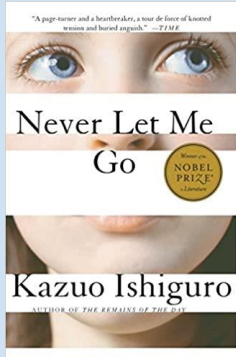


vs.



Which book should I choose for the choice options?

Answer #2



VS.



It depends on personal preference:

- I recommend reading some reviews on both books.
- Don't just pick the "shorter" one. Pick the one that sounds interesting.
- The choice you make won't affect your classwork. Each choice is based around a structural or thematic commonality, which will be the focus of the classwork/assessment.

Question #3

What are your recommendations for good note-taking tactics?

Answer #3

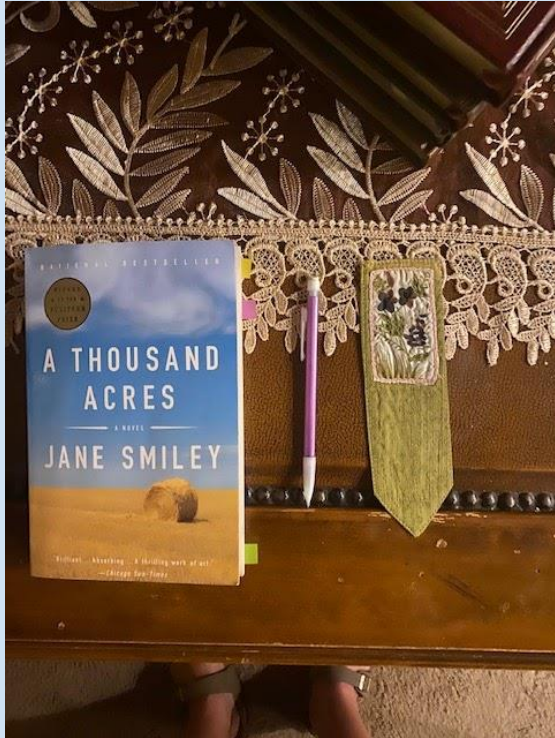
There is no one answer to this question. However, there are a few things that are very important:

- Notes need to be organized and user friendly. If the notes are too complicated or disorganized, then they won't be useful in academic discussions, which is one of the biggest points of having notes.
- Notes need to be balanced. You don't want too few but you also don't want too many.
- NOTE TAKING also needs to be user friendly. The more complex the process, the less likely it will support good, efficient, TIMELY reading.

I'm going to walk you all through a possible in-text notetaking method. A number of you have met with me throughout the year and have seen this. I'm going to outline the steps and give you examples, using some of my own in-text notated novels for visuals.

- This technique is good because it requires no computer and plug and no notebook; just a mechanical pencil.
- It's easy to do this process anywhere.
- It keeps the amount of notes that you take to a reasonable amount and aligns the notes directly with the parts of the text that they reference.

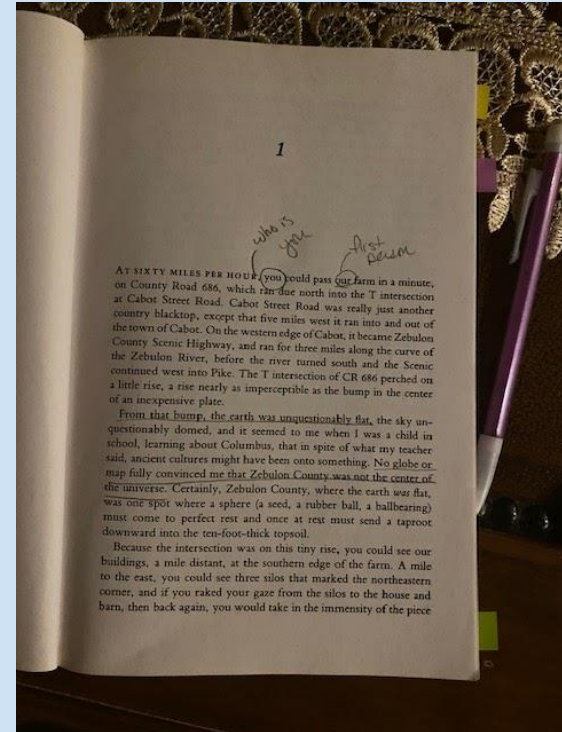
Step #1: Gather Supplies



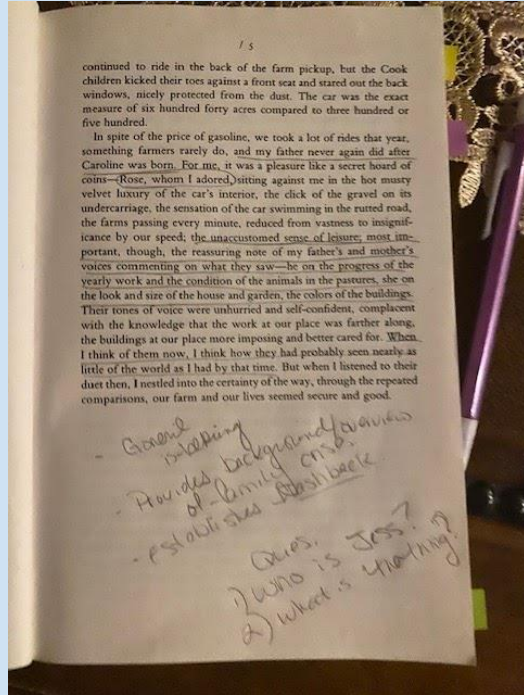
- A copy of the text
- A good bookmark (or whatever works)
- A new mechanical pencil (so you don't even need a sharpener)

Step #2: Annotate Page 1

- What is the Point of View?
- What is the Perspective?
- What is the place and time? Is it in the present or told in flashback/frame story?



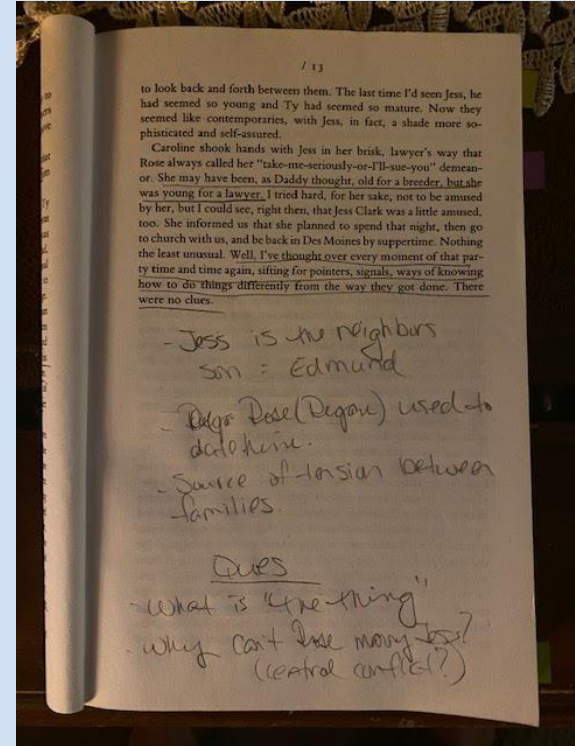
Step #3: Annotate Final Page of Chapter



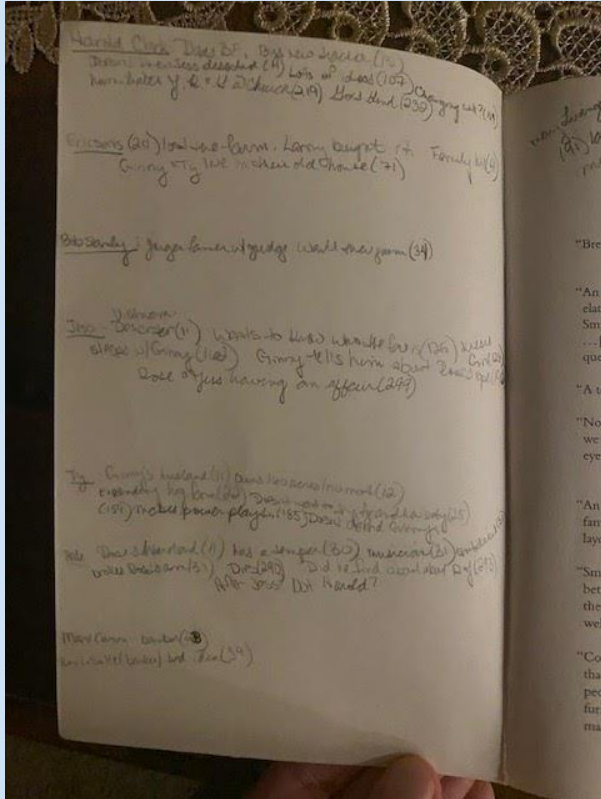
- Make a note of major plot points/emerging conflicts (make it fit in the space provided to avoid writing too much)
- Record questions that have occurred to you in the chapter.

Step #4: Annotate Final Page of Succeeding Chapters

- Continue to record plot/conflict points briefly.
- Review the questions from the previous chapter and answer what you can.
- Record old questions that haven't been answered from previous chapters.
- Record new questions.



Step #5: Create A Character Index



- Create your own character index (I usually use the inside of the front cover)
- Record a supporting character who seems to be important.
- Leave space!!!
- Record a key word and a page number for important events so you can find them easily during an academic discussion.

Final Thoughts

- This method is only a suggestion but it's well-supported by data.
- The examples I've given you are mid-way through the process. I typically annotate or note important pages with a star as I read each chapter. Then I go back and review what I starred before I write my chapter summary or my questions.
- This method often encourages faster reading because the process is so contained.
- You can use any parts of this you want. Make it your own.