

Annotation Guide



The purpose of annotations is to discover the **THEME**: the theme is the author's message. No matter what type of annotation you do, you are doing commentary to get to the theme. You must show **HOW** the passage makes meaning, and what it reveals about the author's purpose. Here are the steps to follow for each type of annotation.

Questioning:

Situate the context; what is going on?

Then, pose the question.

Then, explain the passage using quotation snippets and clearly explain the answer.

Finally, link it to the theme.

Determining Importance:

Situate the context; what is going on?

Then, explain what the passage is showing or demonstrating on a deeper level.

Then, explain the passage using quotation snippets and clearly explain the meaning.

Finally, link it to the theme of the work as a whole.

Making Connections:

Situate the context; what is going on?

Then, explain what the passage is showing or demonstrating on a deeper level.

Explain the passage using quotation snippets and clearly explain the meaning you derive.

Then, connect the piece to **another work of literature**.

Finally, link it to the theme of the work as a whole: compare or contrast the author's themes.

Interpreting Language:

Situate the context; what is going on?

Then, explain what the passage is showing or demonstrating on a deeper level.

Explain the passage using quotation snippets and clearly explain the meaning you derive.

You must mention at least three literary techniques.

Finally, link it to the author's point.

Name of Book and Author: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury			
Number of Passage	Strategy	Quotation & Citation (MLA)	Analysis
1	Questioning	Beatty notes facetiously, "For everyone nowadays knows, absolutely is certain, that nothing will ever happen to me. Others die, I go on. There are no consequences and no responsibilities. Except that there are. But let's not talk about them, eh?" (Bradbury 115).	In this passage, Beatty explains to Montag the problems of dystopian society. What is Beatty observing about the dystopia? He explains that the citizens do not care about the effects of their behavior. They falsely believe there are "no consequences and no responsibilities." The people in the world behave apathetically, and Beatty points out that their behavior does in fact produce problems. Through this, Bradbury shows that people must think about the consequences of their behavior, and act to make a positive impact on society.

2	Determining Importance	Montag “saw or felt, or imagined he saw or felt the walls go dark in Millie’s face, heard her screaming, because in the millionth part of time left there, she saw her own face reflected there, in a mirror instead of a crystal ball, and it was such a wildly empty face, all by itself in the room, touching nothing, starved and eating of itself, that at last she recognized it as her own and looked quickly up at the ceiling as it and the entire structure of the hotel blasted down upon her” (Bradbury 160).	In this passage, Montag imagines what happens to Mildred when the bomb drops. He has her finally realize her emptiness. She sees and understands she is “empty” and “starved,” meaning she lacks substance. She sees herself in a mirror, a symbol for introspection, rather than in a crystal ball, which distorts an image. She sees herself as she is: alone and empty. Through this, Bradbury hopes people will recognize the need for thought, knowledge, relationships and connections before it is too late.
3	Making Connections	The narrator states of Mildred, “The woman on the bed was no more than a hard stratum of marble they had reached. Go on, anyway, shove the bore down, slush up the emptiness, if such a thing could be brought out in the throb of the suction snake. The operator stood smoking a cigarette” (Bradbury 15).	This passage describes when Mildred overdoses accidentally on pills, trying to fill herself. It describes Mildred a “stratum of marble” that has nothing beneath the surface. She is unfulfilled and empty, and no amount of drilling or boring into her will produce anything substantial. Likewise, in the <i>Vampire Academy</i> series, the character Adrian Ivashkov drowns himself in alcohol and other luxuries to try to make himself indifferent and unable to feel. He lacks important relationships because of his behavior. Both Bradbury and Mead show that this kind of behavior brings sadness and emptiness.
4	Interpreting Language	Granger says, “There was a silly damn bird called a phoenix back before Christ... We pick up a few more people that remember each generation” (Bradbury 163).	Granger explains the phoenix after the city has been destroyed. The phoenix is a classical allusion , and it is reborn from the ashes. Here, Granger uses the phoenix as a metaphor for society. It makes mistakes, causes destruction, and then begins again. However, Granger juxtaposes the phoenix with the salamander, the firemen’s symbol which is an emblem of perpetual emptiness. The phoenix has the ability to change by remembering and gathering knowledge so it does not perpetuate the cycle of emptiness. Through this story, Bradbury hopes to inspire others to make a change in society by learning from the mistakes of the past.