

Annotations Activity Sheet

This is a simple activity you can use in your classroom to help you see how well students are comprehending the lesson, helps students transfer concepts and makes sure everyone is prepared for assessments.

It is a great exercise to try when you are trying to align your curriculum because it can help you move from reading to writing standards, and it is a great way to help students find connections from lesson to lesson.

Purpose

This activity is designed to get students engaged in the thinking of the standard, help students take ownership of their metacognition skills (self-monitoring and self-regulating) and demonstrate how to chunk the reading with think-pair-shares.

Benefits of Annotations

1. It allows the teacher to teach a transferable skill to the students.
2. It helps students focus on what they are reading.
3. It gets students to start identifying key ideas.
4. It creates an instruction sequence to connect reading standards to writing standards.
5. It allows the student to move from recalling what happened when asked to being able to analyze the text when they write in the margin to explain the reasoning of their annotations.

Steps to the Assignment

1. **Choose the text or passage.** The first step is to choose the text you will use for your class instruction. No matter the subject you teach, you can use annotations with your text. To start, you might want to try a paragraph or two at a time and then build up to longer texts.
2. **Know what you want students to find.** Depending on your subject and the purpose of the assignment, you might want students to look for different things. Here are some examples:
 - Keywords
 - Connections to other lessons or real-world knowledge
 - Very important ideas
 - Vocabulary Words
 - Action words
 - Concepts that will be on assessments
3. **Demonstrate an annotation.** Help students see what you are looking for by doing a couple of annotations together in class. (See below for a video of this assignment in practice.)
4. **Discuss the annotations with the class.** Talk to the class about what they came up with and why they saw those as the key concepts/ideas, etc., in the text.

Demo Video of an Annotation

In this video, SREB Senior Leadership Coach Donn Kirkwood demonstrates the annotation process with Amber Isinghood's 4th grade ELA class in Sistersville Elementary School in West Virginia.



Sample Student Annotations

To go along with the sample annotation video above, here are a few examples that the students in Ms. Isinghood's class created during the annotation session.

Example Annotation 1:

SESSION 5 READ LESSON 5

SO COOL

by Paul Davis

1 When you think of important inventions in the world, what comes to mind? Maybe the automobile, the camera, or the telephone? How about air conditioning? Even if we live in a cool climate, it's still a major invention that has changed our way of life.

2 Before air conditioning was invented, some people relied on handheld fans made of silk or lace to keep themselves cool on hot, sticky days. Later, when the electric fan was invented in the late 1800s, people could feel some breezy comfort in the heat. But none of these fans could make the air any colder, and they could **relieve** only a few people at a time.

3 That's where air conditioning comes in.

4 In 1902, the first advanced air-cooling system was created. However, the purpose of this invention was not to cool people off. Instead, it was built to help a printing plant do business. Cooling and drying out the air during hot, damp days helped the ink in the printing machines stick better to the paper running through them.

phone help camera

I see at couch

relieve = to remove an unpleasant feeling



The first air-cooling systems were used in 1902 in printing plants like this one.

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Example Annotation 2:

nged

SESSION 5 READ

LESSON 5

SO COOL

by Paul Davis

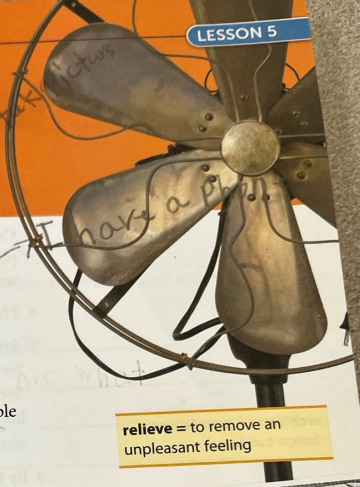
I love it at home
I like to take it
I have a P...

1 When you think of important inventions in the world, what comes to mind? Maybe the automobile, the camera, or the telephone? How about air conditioning? Even if we live in a cool climate, it's still a major invention that has changed our way of life.

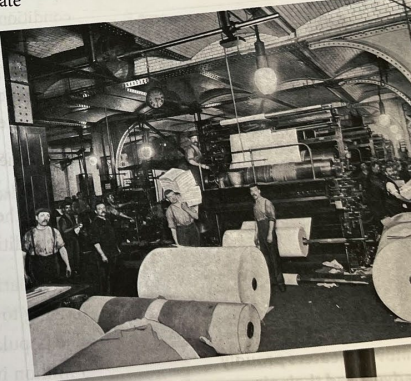
2 Before air conditioning was invented, some people relied on handheld fans made of silk or lace to keep themselves cool on hot, sticky days. Later, when the electric fan was invented in the late 1800s, people could feel some breezy comfort in the heat. But none of these fans could make the air any colder, and they could **relieve** only a few people at a time.

3 That's where air conditioning comes in.

4 In 1902, the first advanced air-cooling system was created. However, the purpose of this invention was not to cool people off. Instead, it was built to help a printing plant do business. Cooling and drying out the air during hot, damp days helped the ink in the printing machines stick better to the paper running through them.



relieve = to remove an unpleasant feeling



The first air-cooling systems were used in 1902 in printing plants like this one.

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Example Annotation 3:

SESSION 5 READ LESSON 5

SO COOL

by Paul Davis

I have my patent for a fan. I have one of my phone.

1 When you think of important inventions in the world, what comes to mind? Maybe the automobile, the camera, or the telephone? How about air conditioning? Even if we live in a cool climate, it's still a major invention that has changed our way of life.

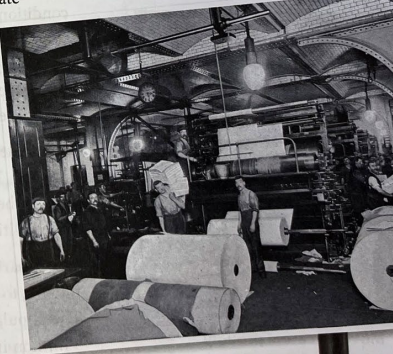

2 Before air conditioning was invented, some people relied on handheld fans made of silk or lace to keep themselves cool on hot, sticky days. Later, when the electric fan was invented in the late 1800s, people could feel some breezy comfort in the heat. But none of these fans could make the air any colder, and they could **relieve** only a few people at a time.

This is the first A-C

relieve = to remove an unpleasant feeling

3 That's where air conditioning comes in.

4 In 1902, the first advanced air-cooling system was created. However, the purpose of this invention was not to cool people off. Instead, it was built to help a printing plant do business. Cooling and drying out the air during hot, damp days helped the ink in the printing machines stick better to the paper running through them.



The first air-cooling systems were used in 1902 in printing plants like this one.

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