

Figure 2.3: Creating an Annotation System of Your Own

Follow these directions.

1. Mark up the text whenever you see something that feels important. All highlighted portions should have a corresponding annotation. Suggestions for marking up the text include the following.
 - **Circle** words that are unfamiliar to you and affect your understanding so you can look them up later.
 - Place **question marks** next to areas of uncertainty.
 - Use **stars or asterisks** to mark something important.
 - Place a **check mark** next to an idea that you agree with.
2. Create margin notes or have a Notebook next to you to explain your reasons for marking that moment in the text. Examples: What about that sentence was confusing? How did that specific evidence persuade your thinking? In what way does this description allow you to better understand the character's motivation? What additional data would strengthen this argument?

Note: Once you decide on a system of annotating, *be consistent*. You should be able to review your annotations at a later date and quickly understand how you made meaning from the text.