



# Annotations: What to Underline

“Which quotes am I supposed to underline on a page when annotating? How do I choose?” I’m sure these are questions that some of you have, and this guide will help you answer them!

Here are some quick and easy elements to look for when annotating:

- Important/revealing dialogue
- Quotes with literary devices
- Significant changes in plot
- Key terms/subjects and definitions
- Pick quotes from different characters

Here are some quotes to stay away from:

- Irrelevant dialogue from characters
- Filler information that is not important to the storyline or any major themes
- Quotes with literary devices you already have a lot of
- Quotes longer than 10 words

Here are some examples and explanations to help you:

1. **“They’re ugly but those are the facts of life” (Lee 252)**
  - This is an example of a good quote because it illustrates a main lesson or theme that was taught in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, making this quote relevant and an important aspect to the novel. Furthermore, it does this using the literary device of personification.
2. **“Mr. Ewell, you heard the sheriff’s testimony, didn’t you?” (Lee 199)**
  - This is an example of an irrelevant quote, and does not need to be underlined. It does not necessarily reveal anything about any of the characters, and does not provide the reader with any important information pertaining to the story or to the subjects. It also does not have a very distinct tone.
3. **“Phineas could get away with anything I couldn’t help envying him” (Knowles 18)**
  - This is an example of a good quote, because it reveals important information about two of the main characters. It reveals that Phineas’ actions were often mischievous, and he got away with them.

We hope this comes in handy this year, and if you have any more questions feel free to send us an email at [writeplace@chagrinstudents.org](mailto:writeplace@chagrinstudents.org)!