**CATCH Annotating**

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| *CATCH is an acronym that represents the process of actively reading and engaging with a text. CATCH can be used to effectively annotate any kind of text (fiction, non-fiction, graphic, visual), which makes it a great tool for students to use throughout their classes, and it makes it a great tool for building an academic culture and literacy school-wide.*  *While there is no “proper” order or method for annotation, capturing the main idea generally comes at the end, after you have read the text one or more times, cleared up any confusion or answered any questions you had, and engaged in a dialogue with the text. Any other symbols--☺, !!!, ?, \*, …--are left to the individual.* | | | |
| **C** | **Circle unfamiliar words**  (then define them) | | Is knowledge of a particular word’s meaning essential to understanding the text? |
| **A** | **Acknowledge confusion**  (and wrestle with it) | | At what parts of the text am I getting confused?  Why am I confused?  What do I think this part of the text means? |
| **T** | **Talk with the text**   * comments * questions * predictions * observations | * connections * reactions * identify author’s evidence * rhetorical devices | Talking with text should go hand-in-hand with highlighting. If a detail is important enough to highlight, I need to express my thinking about it. |
| **C** | **Capture the main idea**  (main assertion) | | Is the main idea explicitly stated? If so, where?  Is it implied? If so, how could I explain it in my own words? |
| **H** | **Highlight or underline important details** | | Less is more.  Avoid highlighting complete sentences.  Too much highlighting makes nothing stand out. |