

ANNOTATING TEXTS FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING

When reading a text, think about the following questions:

- Why did the author write the text?
- What is the author's point?
- How does the author make that point?

What to Note in the Left Margins of the Page:	What to Note in the Right Margins of the Page:
<p>Moments when your reading changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you see something you didn't see before. • When you recognize a pattern—images start to overlap; phrases recur or repeat; some details seem to be associated with each other or bring to mind other works. • The work suddenly seems to be about something different from what you thought. • You discover that you were misreading. • The writer introduces a new idea. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform the main idea of the paragraph or the passage into a question that you write. 2. Try to address WH— information in your margin questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? 3. Underline the answer to the question you write in the margin of the text. 4. Mark any definitions of key terms that appear.

Text Annotation 2-Step Study Guide:

- 1. Cover the text** with your palm or with a sheet of paper, and **read** your right-hand margin questions.
Can you answer them? **If yes**, then you have learned the information.
- 2. If no**, then peek under the covers to find the **answer you have underlined**.

An Example of an Annotated Text

I wonder what boiled tea tastes like.

I don't believe this--

Vocab: whispering

Where's Japan? Is it near China?

He deserved more than a hot-water bag--

Is the Chinese New Year different from the American New Year?

This is a strange way to celebrate New Year--

every night that winter. But I got the best gift of all: my own hot-water bag! I thought, Sister-in-Law is sorry she sold me to the Communist chief. That is why she is giving me such a fine gift.

Sister-in-Law boiled tea and cut the cake into six pieces. She gave the biggest piece to Nephew. As I sipped the hot tea and ate my slice of sweet cake, I listened to the adults murmuring about the terrible things the Japanese soldiers had done to Chinese people during the war. The man who lived in the house said the Communists had saved China from the Japanese. Brother did not speak of the Communists. I knew that Brother did not like it that the Communists had taken over China, but he did not speak of such things. Now, no one in China spoke openly against the Communists.

Often that winter, warmed by the hot-water bag resting on my chest, I had good dragon dreams. Arms wrapped around my dragon's big, strong neck, I soared above the world, where all my cares seemed smaller than they did in the daytime. And always, when it was time to wake up, first I landed in America.

In 1951, the year of the rabbit, we celebrated the Chinese New Year by watching a long parade of paper dragons weaving through the street. Communist soldiers carrying Chinese Communist flags and posters of Mao Tse-tung led the parade. When it got dark, fireworks filled the sky. Never had I seen such a thing! Firecrackers split the night: Pop! Pop! Pop! At that sound, I wanted to run away and hide

Why did he believe Sister-in-law gave him a gift?

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Who saved China from Japan?

Who spoke openly about the Chinese Communists?

What did he dream about?

Where was the parade of paper dragons?

What were the Communist soldiers carrying in the parade?

How did they celebrate New Year?