**Making Text-Flags (Annotations): Student Guide with Examples**

As you work with your text, consider all of the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. Here are some suggestions and student examples that will help you with your annotations:

**VOCABULARY**

Define words or slang; make the words real with examples from your experiences; explore why the author would have used a particular word or phrase.

Example:

Tenement- old apartment building that is rundown and dirty, usually with lots of families in them.

This is significant to the book because Loretta Lee and Iggy live there and they made lots of bad decisions in their lives that caused them to be poor and in an unsafe place.

**CONNECTIONS**

1. Make connections to other parts of the book. Feel free to use direct quotes from the book.
2. \*Make connections to other texts you have read or seen, including:
	* Movies
	* Comic books/graphic novels
	* News events
	* Other books, stories, plays, songs, or poems

Example:

Freak makes references to medieval times like the ones in “King Arthur.”

Ex: Freaks Mom = Fair Gwen

1. Make meaningful connections to your own life experiences.

Example:

Max has a learning disability that many kids are diagnosed with. In second grade I was diagnosed with a learning disability and I share the feelings that Max has because sometimes I feel stupid and get frustrated.

Learning Disability – is when someone learns differently from a regular class environment.

1. Draw a picture when a visual connection is appropriate. (Example: see the cover of the book.)

**CONFLICT**

Identify internal and external conflicts and their resolutions.

Example:

Killer Kane kidnaps Max from his house after he is let out of jail. (External Conflict)

This is important because leads to the climax. Also, it begins the resolution of Max’s internal conflict about becoming like his father.

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Discuss new characters that are introduced.

Example:

Kevin = Freak

 He is really into technology. He also likes robots and enjoys acting like one (8). He is really small for his age and seems ill, but he is really smart.

Discuss how familiar characters have changed.

Example:

Beginning- Max had a temper and was LD (3); also he liked to kick people (1). (Violent)

Middle- Max was more motivated and protective of Freak (36). He had been placed into a regular class due to his improvement with reading thanks for Freak’s help (72).

End- Max was smarter but unhappy because Freak was in the hospital (148). He was respectful to his dad to keep himself safe. His attitude reverts to Kicker, but then changes after Freak’s death when Loretta helps convince him to maintain Freak’s legacy by writing his book.

**POINT OF VIEW**

Describe a new perspective you may now have.

Example:

Max is scared of his dad, Killer Kane, because he remembers Kane killing his mother.

This confirms for the reader that Kenny Kane is a bad man. We know Grim and Gram were right about him.

**SETTING**

Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs that are used in the passage.

Example:

Max and Freak went to the lady’s house to return her ID (63-4). She, Loretta Lee, lived in the New Tenements. Inside the house is very dirty, and the boys were afraid to go inside. When they did, Iggy was cruel to them and they knew they were in danger. This foreshadows when Killer Kane takes Max there.

**\*EXPLANATIONS**

Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.

Example:

Freak says the Dr. Spivak said that he will get his bionic body in “a year or two.” This is saying that Freak only has 1 or 2 years to live (89).

**\*SUMMARIES**

Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or moment.

Example:

Chp 20 – 21 - In chapter 20, Killer Kane was squeezing the life out of Loretta. Max tried to stop him, and he told his father that he remembered Kane killing his mom. Furthermore, Freak cames for Max, and saved him from Killer Kane.