

# Text Marking with Symbols and Post-its

Using symbols to mark responses to text while reading is one easy way to ensure active engagement. We know that good readers interact extensively with text in their minds as they read the words; weaker readers need to be taught explicitly to do this in order for it to become habitual. You may use these bookmarks as reminders for students of the coding system. Make sure to teach each code separately and model with a "think aloud" how you would code a text yourself. For example, you could project a few paragraphs of an engaging text then:

1. Read aloud the first paragraph to the students and then choose something to mark and "think aloud" by telling the students why you chose that section. For example:

*"I'm putting a star here because that sentence really helped me understand what the author was trying to explain."*

*"I haven't seen that word before, and I need to go back and figure out what it means"*

2. Next, read another paragraph as a shared reading and ask pairs of students to code for the symbol you are teaching then share their choices with the whole class. Once you are confident they understand the use of the symbols through shared reading and collaboration, you can ask students to do this on their own.



? page 31  
Metamorphosis  
I think that means something about change?  
Insect grew?

If students are marking a text they can't write on, have them use post-its to do so, but make them annotate the post-its with the page number, and the reason why they marked that section with that symbol. They can then transfer all the post-its for a chapter or article onto a sheet of paper to bring to a class discussion, or use for notes for writing.

See next pages for printable pages of the text marking symbols.


## K-3 Text Marking Symbols


!	Wow! Interesting!
+	New...I didn't know this.
*	IMPORTANT
?	Question...confused
V	Important VOCABULARY word


## 4-8 Text Marking Symbols


★	Insightful statement, quotation, attention grabber. What makes it stand out.
?	Statement, sentence, or word that you are uncertain about. Include your own guess on its meaning.
+	Summarize a large section of text or event that occurred.
🗣️	An opinion about a statement in the text; this can also be an opinion the author holds that you agree + or disagree - with.
🎯	A thesis statement or topic statement; something that seems very important or poignant.
➡️	Your prediction about what comes next, or where the author is going.


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