

The following is a list of things to consider and note when annotating your text and may also serve as topics for possible discussion when you are asked to comment on your readings:

1. Questions from the reader relating to plot, character, conflict, setting, or theme.
Try to ask open-ended questions that encourage your group to explain their answers and defend their opinions. Questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” aren’t effective.
2. Establishment and evolution (or lack of) of character. Foils or parallels between characters.
Look to explore character motivations and relationship. An understanding of basic psychology is helpful here.
3. Establishment and nature of conflict
How does this conflict reflect persistent themes? How does this conflict reflect real world concerns?
4. Evolution of plot
Look to incorporate the terms we have worked with, and try to connect to themes and characters.
5. Establishment of physical and emotional setting
Be specific with the textual evidence that supports your interpretation of physical and emotional setting.
6. Connection of plot, character, conflict, and setting to establishment of theme
Use a combination of generalized observation and specific textual evidence to make your connections.
7. Symbolic significance of various elements within the text; connection to theme.
8. Significance / purpose of allusions within the text; connection to theme.

9. Connection of elements within the text to the reader's personal life and understanding of the world they live in.
This can be largely personal reactions based on the world as you know it.
10. Connection of various trends, ideas, phenomenon from the outside world (reality) to those within the text.
Use your access to media of all types to consider cultural, political, historical, economic, sociological, environmental relevance and connection to the real world.
11. Connections to various other texts familiar to the reader. Connections may be based on character, plot, theme, conflict, etc.
Books, movies, tv shows, graphic novels, etc. It all applies!
12. Identification and commentary on various elements that define a work as a specific genre or kind of literature.
What makes your work a work of speculative fiction? Is it a particular sub-genre? Why?
13. Commentary on significance of a work as viewed through a specific type of critical literary perspective (Historical, Feminist, Marxist, Biographical, Psychological, etc.)
Higher level stuff, if you can manage it.
14. Predictions as to outcome of plot, character, conflict, etc.
Keep your predictions and opinions rooted in specific evidence, if you have it.
15. Subjective opinion of various elements of the text. Praise, criticism, etc.
Same as above.
16. Identification and definition of any unfamiliar vocabulary.
Always good to consider and use the vocabulary we don't understand.
17. Identification of effective writing (sentence structure, figurative/ poetic/ rhetorical elements, etc.)
These works endure for a reason. Take time to isolate, consider, and emulate the writing you are exposed to.