



“There are three kinds of book owners. The first has all the standard sets and best sellers -- unread, untouched. (This deluded individual owns woodpulp and ink, not books.) The second has a great many books -- a few of them read through, most of them dipped into, but all of them as clean and shiny as the day they were bought. (This person would probably like to make books his own, but is restrained by a false respect for their physical appearance.) The third has a few books or many -- every one of them dog-eared and dilapidated, shaken and loosened by continual use, marked and scribbled in from front to back. (*This man owns books.*)” (Mortimer Adler, emphasis added)

Annotation resources:

- *The CiRCE Guide to Reading*: <https://www.circeinstitute.org/store/books/circe-guide-reading>
- *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren:
<https://www.amazon.com/How-Read-Book-Classic-Intelligent/dp/0671212095>
- “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler (PDF)

Annotation recommendations by age:

- Pre-readers/Emergent readers:
 - Emphasis on subject/action
 - Questions while reading
 - Retell
- Elementary readers (2nd-4th grade):
 - Comprehension
 - Retell/summary
 - Grammar
 - Pink highlight (subject)/ Yellow highlight (action)
- Middle-grade readers (5th-7th):
 - Elementary annotation, plus:
 - Blue highlight (favorite passages)
 - !/?/* notations
 - Two-word summaries (top of page)
- Upper-grade readers (8th-12th):
 - All of middle school annotation, plus:
 - Green highlight (structure/sequence)
 - Theme tracking (Orange highlight)