

Assigned text: *The Book of the Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin Jr.

Your assignment grades for *The Book of the Dun Cow* will be as follows:

Content test: Double test Grade

Annotations: 30% of Content test Grade

Content Test: The test will be Monday August 19. This will be a comprehensive short answer/multiple choice test.

Annotations will be calculated as part (30%) of this grade. All annotations are to be done in your copy of the book (purchased new: do not buy a used copy that is already marked up). Due Monday August 19 as well...simply turn in your book (making sure you have written your name in the inside cover) with all annotations.

Please mark the text as you read with comments and notes. The principal reason for annotating is to aid in understanding. When important passages occur, mark them so that they can be easily located when it comes time to write an essay or respond to the piece of literature in a class discussion. Marking key ideas will enable you to discuss the reading with more support, evidence, and/or proof than if you rely only on memory.

ANNOTATING MAY INCLUDE:

- highlighting key words, phrases or sentences
- writing questions or comments in the margins
- bracketing important ideas or passages
- connecting ideas with lines or arrows
- highlighting passages that are important to understanding the work
- If you highlight, you should have a legend to explain what each color represents.

HOW TO ANNOTATE A TEXT:

- Highlighting/underlining—Highlighting stands out from the page and allows you to scan a page quickly for information. Be careful not to mark too much. If everything is highlighted, nothing becomes important. If you use different colors, include a legend explaining what each color represents in the front of the book.
- Brackets []—If several lines seem important, place a bracket around the passage; then highlight or underline only key phrases within the bracketed area. This will draw attention to the passage without cluttering it with too many highlighted or underlined sentences.
- Asterisks * --An asterisk indicates something unusual, special, or important. Multiple asterisks indicate a stronger degree of importance.
- Marginal notes—Use space in the margin to respond to ideas in the book. Ask questions, label literary elements, summarize critical events, explain ideas, make a comment, and identify characters.
- **I will be looking for all of these things when I grade your annotation.**

TYPES OF THINGS TO MARK/WRITE IN BOOK:

- The name of a character the first time he or she is introduced
- Insight into his or her character
- Images, objects, ideas that pop up repeatedly (motifs)
- Passages relating to the theme
- Passages that indicate the tone (author's attitude toward the subject)
- Passages that indicate the setting and the effect the setting has on the characters and plot
- Words or phrases you don't understand
- Possible foreshadowing