Layer 1, Individual Annotation: Processing the Text and Developing a Working Thesis



In this phase, you will annotate the play *Doubt* by yourself to formulate an initial stance regarding Father Flynn's guilt or innocence and process the text to lay the groundwork for building and defending an argument to support your working thesis.

All annotations in this layer must be Posted to **Only to Me** from the drop-down post-to menu and include two separate tags: a **Layer 1** tag in addition to the **tag types**, which are listed below the following image, on the next page:

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When you post **"Only to Me,"** this puts annotations in a private space that only you can see. It is vital that for Layer 1, all posts are posted here. Other layers will be posted to the class later.

Layer 1 Annotation Types and Guidelines

Initial Annotations, Tag: IA On the first read-through, begin by focusing on passages, dialogues, or scenes that seem significant. Highlight and annotate significant moments, ambiguous statements, or conflicting evidence, providing explanations and interpretations, or posing questions to the group. Aim for a substantial number of annotations throughout the play to fully process it and explore different aspects related to your thesis. Your annotations should be organic and prolific, but also a thoughtful and reflective, contributing to a deeper understanding of the play and your stance.

• Developing a Working Thesis, Tag: Thesis Based on your initial reading and annotations, formulate a working thesis that reflects your current stance. This can be a simple statement for now: Father Flynn is [indicate his guilt or innocence]. Anchor your working thesis to a specific piece of textual evidence and explain your reasoning, connecting that to other parts of the text, too, if applicable. This will help ensure that your initial stance is grounded in textual evidence and not just a general feeling that you can't justify.

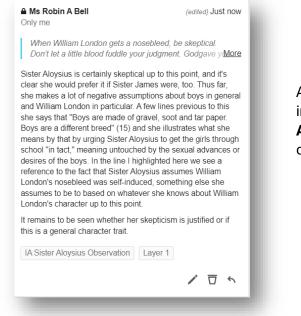
Analyzing Evidence, Tag: AE When making annotations, pay close attention to the evidence that supports your working thesis. Highlight specific quotes, actions, or interactions that reinforce your interpretation. Explain how each piece of evidence strengthens your thesis and contributes to your overall argument. Consider the context, characterization, and thematic elements that surround the evidence to provide a comprehensive analysis. **AE tags** should only appear in the second or subsequent readings of the text, after you have formulated a working thesis. Now, you are going back through to re-analyze or reflect on the evidence in light of your thesis and looking for things you may have missed or not considered. [Read-through 2]

Exploring Counterarguments, Tag: EC While developing your annotations, remain open to alternative perspectives and counterarguments. Engage with moments or evidence that may challenge your working thesis and consider how others might use the very evidence you have highlighted and annotated to achieve an opposite end. Analyze opposing viewpoints or interpretations and consider how they impact your overall understanding of the play. Address counterarguments in your annotations, providing thoughtful responses or counterpoints that strengthen your own stance. [Read-through 2]

Reflective Analysis, Tag: RA Throughout the individual annotation process, take moments to reflect on your evolving understanding of the play and your working thesis. Consider how your interpretations have developed or changed based on the evidence and analysis. Reflect on the significance of key moments or themes that emerge from your annotations. Use these reflections to refine and strengthen your working thesis or arguments as you progress.

Layer 1 Tag Type Example Annotations

1. Initial Annotations (IA)



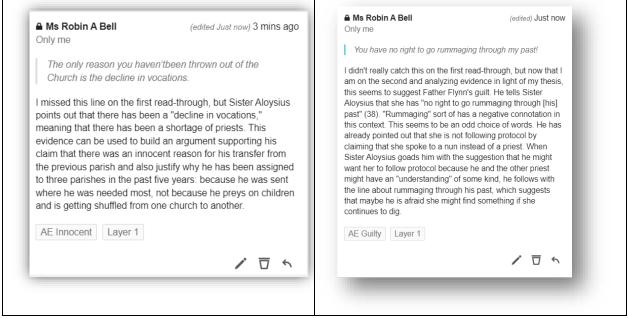
Although not required, it can be useful to include a descriptor next to the **Initial Annotation (IA) tag.** Include a **Layer 1 tag** on all posts, too.

2. Developing a Working Thesis (Thesis)

Ms Robin A Bell	(edited Just now) 5 hrs ago	Ms Robin A Bell	(edited 1 min ago) 5 hrs a
My basic and initial stance or innocent. In this exchange, Si nothing that Father Flynn can innocence, despite the fact the play that his explanation for D return to class provided a reas	thesis is that Father Flynn is ster Aloysius admits that there is say to convince her of his at she conceded earlier in the onald's strange behavior after his sonable account that was so lered the issue settled and Sister	question in the play is that Aloysius directly asserts the response to that is to say, " anything" (38). This is not h respond to such an awful a response suggests his guilt	st proof of anything. or thesis based on the central Father Flynn is guilty. When Sister at Father Flynn is guilty, his You have not the slightest proof o now someone who is innocent wou illegation. In fact, this kind of t. It's what a smug, entitled, and and can be construed as a tacit

After initial annotations, present your basic stance on Father Flynn's innocence or guilt, grounded to one piece of textual evidence and an argument that justifies it. It will take your whole paper to prove your stance, but this will help ensure that even your basic stance is grounded in textual evidence and argument from the outset. Include a **Layer 1 tag** on all posts, too.

3. Analyzing Evidence (AE)



Remember, the **Analyzing Evidence (AE) tag** can only be used after you've read the play and developed a thesis. Now you are re-analyzing evidence in light of your thesis. If you believe Father Flynn is innocent, all descriptors on your AE tags will say "Innocent." If you believe he is guilty, they will all say "Guilty." Include a **Layer 1 tag** on all posts in this layer, too.

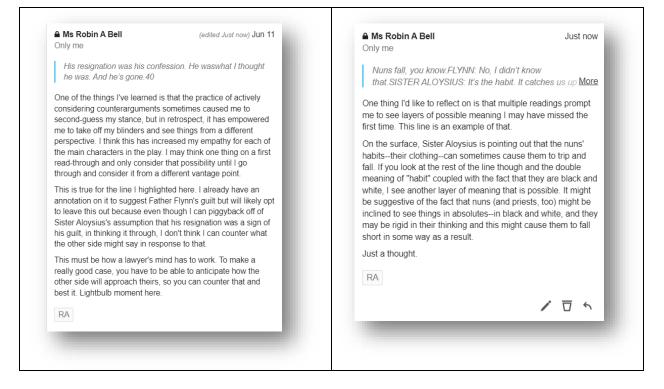
4. Exploring Counterarguments (EC)

MS Robin A Bell (edited Just now) Jun 11 Only me	Ms Robin A Bell Just now Only me
The only reason you haven'tbeen thrown out of the Church is the decline in vocations. Although my stance is that Father Flynn is innocent, and I have an annotation on this that can help prove that using this piece	His resignation was his confession. He waswhat I thought he was. And he's gone. Although my stance is that Father Flynn is guilty and analyzed this piece of evidence as support for that, as I'm going back through to consider how the other side might spin this, it is helping me to see what I need to do to defend my own
of evidence, I can also see how this same piece of evidence can be spun to suggest his guilt. The other side can point to the fact that it was common practice for priests' "indiscretions" to be swept under the rug and that they were often moved around instead of being brought to some kind of justice. This argument can provide an alternative view for why Father Flynn might have been in three parishes in the last five years. The fact that I can see this means I need to make some kind of concession to show that I can see it, but I need to do a better	position. The other side might point to the fact that it was just prudent for him to leave St. Nicholas. His sermon on gossip highlights the danger and damage that even indirect whispers can do. Sister Aloysius herself points out the potential consequences for Donald if any word of this gets out and highlights that as one of the reasons to be cautious in their approach. If word gets out, even if untrue or in the service of clearing his name, there would be consequences, not just for him or Donald but also for the parish, community, and possibly for the Catholic church on the whole if allegations weren't somehow kept quiet.
concession to show that real see it, but meet to do a better job of proving my point and figure out other ways to diminish the impact of that argument vs. mine. EC Layer 1	If I can't figure out how to counter this, it will likely be better for me to leave my initial point on this out, which is basically just relying on Sister Aloysius's assumption that "his resignation was his confession" (40). EC Learning What to Leave Out?
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The **Exploring Counterargument (EC) tag** or annotation will help you consider how the other side might spin the evidence. This can help you figure out what concessions you need to make or whether you need to abandon a point because you can't counter it. Include a **Layer 1 tag** on all annotations, too.

5. Reflective Analysis (RA)

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Your annotations should span the length of the play and demonstrate thoughtfulness, analysis, and reflection.

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Minimum number of annotations = Enough to have fully processed the play for yourself and to prepare for the social annotation layers that will follow this one. These annotations are not for me and my sake: they are for yours; however, you will receive points on this portion of the assignment; therefore, the frequency, distribution, and quality of your annotations matters.

Remember, this phase is an opportunity for you to actively engage with the play, develop a working thesis, and start annotating in a meaningful and organic way. Your annotations should be span the length of the play and demonstrate thoughtfulness, analysis, and reflection. They will serve as the basis for the subsequent social annotation and discussion with your peers.

Special Instructions for Layer 1 When You Are Finished



Because I cannot see your Layer 1 Annotations since you posted them "Only to Me," as instructed, I will ask you to submit proof of your participation in a separate assignment link.

- 1. Click on the assignment link provided for this in Blackboard.
- 2. **Open** a Word document and include a proper heading in MLA format.
- 3. **Write** a brief paragraph summarizing your participation in Layer 1 or create a simple table to include the following information:
 - a. Total number of posts
 - b. Number of posts in each tag category
 - c. Number of posts for each act in the play
- 4. **Include** a screenshot of each tag type, showing a quality annotation.
- 5. Include a screenshot showing the total number of posts.
- 6. **Write** a brief reflection on this activity, the use of Hypothes.is, and any questions or comments you have.

Note: Although there are other workflows that would have allowed me to see your initial annotations directly, I wanted to show you the **"Only to Me"** posting area in this assignment, so you can use that any time you want to annotate an assigned text for yourself, even if I have not required it.

Note: There are other workflows that would have allowed me to see your annotations directly in this layer; however, I wanted to show you the **"Only to Me"** posting area and experience using that, as this is something you will always be able to do on any annotation assignment on a first read-through, to process the text for yourself, whether I require that or not.