**Annotating Fiction**

**How to Annotate a Text:**

Reading is an active practice. Reading should be a conversation between you and the author. Be active and insightful readers by annotating the text. When we analyze literature, we consider the choices the writer has made about how to use words, phrases, and sentences to communicate meaning and effect. For next class **be prepared to share insights with your group (what is the importance, impact, or effect; what meaning is conveyed).**

As you read “My Name,” make annotations about the following:

* **Language (diction)**—In all forms of literature authors choose particular words to convey effect and meaning. Writers employ diction or word choice to communicate ideas and impressions, to evoke emotions and to convey their views of truth to the reader. Consider how the author uses the following: informal (slang, regional dialect, idioms) vs. formal (elaborate, polysyllabic words, elegant word choice) language. Also consider how the author employs figurative language and poetic devices.
* **Setting**—Analyze the geographic location, cultural backdrop/ social context, and artificial environment (rooms, buildings, cities, towns). What mood and atmosphere is created (lights, shadows, shapes, colors)? How do characters respond to their environment? What does a character’s favorite room, place, hideaway, or dress reveal about him or her?
* **Narrator, Characterization, Point of View**—Readers get to know characters by what they say and do, how they look, and what others say and think about them. Characters are closely tied to point-of-view, especially when they are the ones who tell the story.
* **Conflict and theme**—What conflicts develop? What actions cause conflict? What are the effects? How do these propel the action forward? What truths about life seem to be revealed by the actions, events, and outcomes?