

How does it work?

Students annotate a selection of poems, prose extracts or non-fiction texts in silence, passing their work around every two minutes until each piece is plentiful in useful revision notes.

Who's it for?

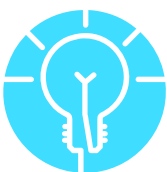
Groups of at least four. All levels and abilities.

What you need ...

A3 paper with text in the centre (so there is plenty of space to add notes). You need a separate text for each student in the group; ie a group of four will require four different texts.

Step by step

- This exercise works best with complete silence from students (background music might help!)
- Each student reads their initial text carefully and adds as many relevant notes as they can in two minutes. For example they might identify a presentation technique, comment on the effect of a literary device, write something about the context of the piece.
- After two minutes the sheets are passed on in a clockwise direction. As well as reading the text, students should read the annotations that have been added so far, and then aim to add more of their own.
- When the original piece returns to the initial annotator, ask them to read all of the annotations and to report their favourite three.
- Collect in the sheets and stick them on the classroom wall as revision, scan and add them to your VLE, or photocopy them for students to take home.



Further teaching ideas ...

Students use the annotations to prepare an essay on their initial text.