

Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County

12th Grade Summer Reading Assignment



The Death of Ivan Illyich

ISBN: 978-0553210354

Author: Leo Tolstoy

Incoming twelfth-grade students at Ascent Classical Academy are required to read *The Death of Ivan Illyich* by Leo Tolstoy to prepare for class discussions and an in-class essay during the first week of the school. Students must annotate the book as described below and will submit their copy for an annotation check on the first day of school, Monday, August 28, 2023.

If you have any questions, please email dougco.office@ascentclassical.org.

Annotation Guide

Why Do We Annotate?

Annotating creates intentional readers by compelling students to think about and converse with the text as they read. Annotations also provide footholds into difficult texts and encourage students to take time to understand confusing passages. Annotating prompts students to engage in pattern recognition and track the development of major characters and themes. In practical terms, annotations prepare students for success in Socratic discussions by helping them recall and locate key passages quickly.

Rules for Annotating

1. Highlighting, underlining, and other marks *must* be accompanied by writing in the margins. Students will forget why they marked a passage if it is not accompanied by a verbal response. It is impossible to engage in a conversation with the text without some form of language, however abbreviated. Symbols may be used to approximate, but should not completely replace, language.
2. The purpose of annotating is quality, not quantity. If every word is highlighted, nothing is.
3. Mark words you do not know. Or, after looking the word up, write a brief definition or synonym in the margins.