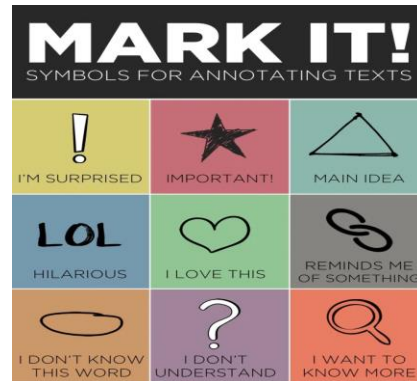


*The Chocolate War* Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read and annotate Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War* over the summer.
  - a. annotations are notes you make as you read - use the chart for symbols below



2. Annotations will be checked on the first day back to school and **graded** - post-its required. You may also annotate by hand on lined paper.
3. No typed annotations will be accepted, in order to maintain academic honesty.
4. After annotating the entire novel, consider the following questions, which will be completed in class when we return in August.
5. Be prepared for graded class discussions when you return to school in August.
6. Your answers will be submitted to turnitin.com for academic honesty.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* RESEARCH AND DEFINE ANY AND ALL WORDS YOU DON'T KNOW, EITHER IN THE BOOK OR ON THIS ASSIGNMENT, TO HELP YOUR COMPREHENSION.**

## **The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier**

**Abstract:** At all boys Trinity High School, The Vigils are the school gang. Led by Archie Costello, The Vigils' specialty is giving other students tasks to complete. These tasks are designed to cause psychological injury. Jerry Renault, a freshman, is assigned the task of refusing to sell chocolates at the school's sale for ten days. When the ten days are up, Jerry refuses to start selling them. The Vigils consider Jerry's refusal a rebellion against their assignment, and Archie decides to make Jerry's life miserable.

**About the Author:** Robert Cormier (1925 – 2000) was born in Massachusetts. He began his writing career as an award-winning journalist for his local newspaper. *The Chocolate War* was his first novel for teenagers. His literature is very pessimistic; he was concerned with real problems modern teenagers face, including abuse, violence, peer pressure, and mental illness. His books do not have happy endings. A popular theme in his books is the individual against society. (Source: Worcester Area Writers <http://wpi.edu>)

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. Jerry is “Disturbing the Universe” throughout the book. What is “the Universe” at Trinity High? What positive reaction does Jerry’s “disturbing” have? Does it last?
2. How are Archie and The Vigils different from typical bullies? What are some of the tactics of “psychological warfare” they use against Jerry and others?
3. Why is Archie feared? How does Jerry’s refusal to follow his orders threaten this control by fear?
4. Why does Brother Leon manipulate his students?
5. How does what happens in Room Nineteen foreshadow what is to come?
6. What do the chocolates symbolize?
7. How do certain colors become important throughout the chapters? What do they represent? Explain.
8. What comment would the author be making about religious upbringings for children?