

Hello Tenth Graders!

To prepare for the first quarter work in both World Literature and World History, we are asking you to read and annotate [\*The Moor's Account, a work of historical fiction by Laila Lalami\*](#), by September 13th. Please take a close look at the sample annotation (a separate document in the summer reading list) to get an idea of how you can interact with the text. While the sample page has several annotations, you are being asked to make, on average, one annotation per page. You will likely annotate much more at the beginning of the book than you will need to as you gain a better understanding of setting, character, conflict, plot, motifs, and theme. Because you will be engaging this novel as both a literary critic and an historian, we would like you to pay particular attention to the following concepts and make note of them in the margins of your book.

1. Point of view: Notice the voice of the narrator. Notice times when his point of view as a slave during this expedition is especially relevant to the story that is unfolding. In other words, how do the interests, fears, desires of a slave shape the story differently than the interests, fears, and desires of an enslaver would? Notice moments when this particular point of view is a counter-narrative to the traditional stories we learn about the so-called Age of Discovery.
2. Conflict: Make note of any relevant conflicts that reveal character or move along the plot. Consider person v. person, person v. nature, person v. society, and person v. self conflicts.
3. Setting: If you notice details about the setting that you suspect are important, but you're not sure, do a quick Google search for more information. For example, while Ms. Doyle was reading this novel, she wondered why the chickens and horses were brought to the "New World," and a quick search revealed that Europeans introduced these animals to the Americas, an example of the "Columbian Exchange." Maybe you will notice something that seems odd in light of information you already know. For example, the narrator seems like a personal servant. Was that the same thing as being a slave? The important thing here is that you identify what it is you don't know, so even if that is just a question that you can't find an answer to, that's great!

4. Motifs: if you notice an image that recurs (one example is mirrors), note the recurrence, and at the end of the book try to figure out how that image fits in with your understanding of a major theme.
5. Theme: Note changes in characters as you encounter them in the novel, and ask yourself at the end, "What argument is the author making through this particular character's experience?"
6. Anything else that seems important to you, that allows you to make connections to other knowledge you have about history, annotate it!

We are looking forward to working together with all of you and deepening our own understanding of world literature and history through the unique experiences that you students will bring to our classes. Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sarah Chhablani (Modern World History 10)

Ms. Amy Doyle (World Literature 10)