

Annotation
Pre-AP English II
The Romance of Tristan & Iseult

Annotation: Quiz grade—Due August 24/25 Reading Check Quiz: Quiz grade—August 24/25
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Denis De Rougemont in his famous text, *Love in the Western World*, argues the following: "Happy love has no history. Romance only comes into existence where love is fatal, frowned upon and doomed by life itself. What stirs lyrical poets to their finest flights is neither the delight of the sense nor the fruitful contentment of the settled couple: not the satisfaction of love, but its *passion*. And passion means suffering." This is the basis of the famous legend of Tristan and Iseult. Both lovers are married to death since both can not fulfill their love toward the other. Keep this in mind as you annotate the text.

1. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Any other **vocabulary word that you do not know should be highlighted, and you need to look up the meaning of the word.** There are quite a few armor words and medieval terms used in the first couple of chapters—you need to know these words or the story will not make sense.
2. When new characters are introduced, highlight phrases that describe them.
3. Both Tristan and Iseult have many encounters with death. Highlight each encounter and note how one or both overcame death.
4. Highlight and make a brief note on the external barriers put in place to keep the Tristan and Iseult from fulfilling their love. Highlight and mark with a sticky note the obstruction Tristan invents to keep the two lovers apart.
5. Make note in the margin of each applicable chapter Tristan's conflict between two kinds of duty: duty to the king and his duty to love. You need to decide which duty should supersede and why.
6. If you have a question about something in the book, write it on the page when it first occurs to you. When you get an idea while reading the text, note it in a brief form in the margin. You may never think of this idea again unless you write it down.
7. **Use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or detail you want to return to later. Then in the front of the book record the symbol you used and write the page numbers that have that symbol.**
8. Don't mark too much. If you mark everything, nothing will stand out.