# MARGINALIA & PATRON SERVICES

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## USING MARGINALIA TO UNLOCK

- We are always looking for ways to help our patrons.
- How can Marginalia help us understand what patrons want?
  - What is marginalia?
    - Underlining, highlighting, encircling/boxing, brackets, parentheses, symbols, writing in a book.
  - Historically only marginalia of famous people was studied. But is there something to be learned from the marginalia of regular people like the students and faculty of Queensborough Community College, CUNY?
  - Patrons share what they need in their marginalia.
  - Some sharing is plain while other sharing must be deciphered.
  - More work to be done in deciphering the marginalia.

#### **RESEARCH PLAN**



- Would I find marginalia?
- Would there be enough marginalia?
- What would the marginalia reveal?

## HOW WERE BOOKS CHOSEN?

#### Random

#### In Library of Congress classifications

- PR English Literature
- PS American Literature
- PT Norwegian Literature

## WHAT BOOKS DID I CHOOSE?

- A Doll's House by Hendrik Ibsen
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
- A Wuthering Heights Handbook by Lettis & Morris
- A Mirror of The Ministry in Modern Novels by Horton Davies
- Charlotte Bronte by Margaret Blom
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sleep? By Philip K. Dick
- Frankenstein or The Prometheus by Mary Shelley
- O Pioneers! by Willa Cather
- Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
- Walden Two by B.F. Skinner

## THE CAPTURE TOOL



- Num
- Title
- Call
- Author
- Publisher
- Location
- Date
- Marginalia Type
- Page

## **MARGINALIA TYPE**



- Underlining/1 Word
- Underlining/Phrase(s)
- Highlighting
- Encircling/Boxing
- Bracket/Brackets
- Parenthesis/Parentheses
- Symbols
- Writing



#### **MARGINALIA TYPE DATA**

Marginalia Type	Bk I	Bk 2	Bk 3	Bk 4	Bk 5	Bk 6	Bk 7	Bk 8	Bk 9	Bk I0	Total
Underlining I	NA	NA	7	3	3	29	20	9	10	3	84
Underlining/ Phrase	292	NA	95	8	46	282	261	73	30	45	1132
Highlighting	6	NA	64	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	129	NA	199
Encircling/ Boxing	6	NA	I	I	NA	61	5	53	7	3	137
Bracket/ Brackets	21	NA	37	NA	39	74	6	2	31	23	233
Parenthesis/ Parentheses	35	NA	16	NA	4	NA	NA	NA	2	9	66
Symbols	119	NA	106	2	25	51	99	7	109	18	536
Writing	7	NA	7	2	26	181	77	49	158	67	574
Total	486	NA	333	16	143	678	467	193	476	168	2961



- Many of the books were filled with marginalia.
  - Multiple Authors
  - 3000 examples in 10 books.
- Language of underlining, highlighting, encircling, boxing, bracketing, parentheses, symbols, writing.
- What did the marginalia say?

#### Examples of Marginalia Extensive marginalia in "A Dolls House" including underlining, highlighting and the use of a pencil.

He say change of events in his life. Oh, never a happy change of events in his life. Oh, never a happy that he says... we're saved, Nora' No one mind what he says... we're saved, Nora' No one and anything to you. Oh, Nora, Nora-no, can do anything to you. Oh, Nora, Nora-no, first I must destroy these terrible things. Let me is (looking at the contract) No, no, I don't see ... (looking at the contract) No, no, I don't see ... (look at it. The whole thing will be nothwant to look at it. The whole thing will be nothing but a bad dream. (tears up the contract and the lotters, throws them into the stove, and watches them lotters, throws them into the stove, and watches them lotters, throws they're gone forever. He said harn) There. Now they're gone forever. He said that since Christmas Eve ... you ... these past three days must have been agonizing for you, Nora.

NORA: I've been fighting a hard battle.

TORVALD: And you must have suffered. There was no way out except—but no, we mustn't think about all the horror you went through. All we must do is shout with joy and keep telling each other it's over, it's over! Listen to me, Nora, you don't seem to understand that it's all over. What's the matter?—such a cold, hard face. Oh my poor Nora, I quite understand. You can hardly believe that I have forgiven you. But it's true, Nora, I swear to you. I've forgiven you. Totally. I know that what you did you did because you love me.

NORA: That is true.

TORVALD: You loved me as a wife should love her husband. You were just too naive to understand the implications of what you were doing. But do you think I love you the less because you didn't understand how to do things on your own? No

 Examples of Marginalia Marginalia in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" including Writing marginalia on Posted Notes added to the book.

bad seen papa off, Francie went up to see what kind of cose Floss Gaddie had e as a. vrong of Gladdis were wearing they Flossic ht w get ( fbssie works asa t sh nsun rf B production a glove ncie - works 2 support you think Henny's looking good, Francie? king good." looking good, Henny." ddressed an unseen companion. "She tells a

#### Examples of Marginalia **Extensive marginalia in "Wuthering** Heights" including highlighting and the use of color.

The Structure of Wuthering Heights

but to confine myself to which presents orth doing I do not know the book and made the to

C. P. SANGER

a son called Hindle whow, who has been to on home a waif he has picked up there. aght up at Wuthering Heights. Not Heathcliff is Mr Earnshaw's favourtriends with /5/ Catherine, but Hindley, who im At last, Hindley is sent off to college. When Hindley returns for the funeral, bringing with wife He takes possession, ill-treats Heathcliff, thrusts tion of a mere servant, and allows him no more r Catherine and Heathcliff have remained great one Sunday they go for a walk, and out of curiosity beross Grange, a gentleman's house in a park four the Hererics, Cambridge, England. By permission of Hogarth



ration are all alive-Hindley Edgar and Isabella at wife is dead, but his son Hareton-the only repreaird generation-is alive. Heathcliff has disappe

for Catherine and his revenge is the main

gross Grange. After six months of happiness, H meanwhile mysteriously got some education and m He sets himself to ruin Hindley, who gambles and finds that Isabella is in love with him, and decides get her money. One day, after a violent scene be and Edgar, Catherine goes on hunger strike and Isabella clopes with Heathcliff, who treats her ab nally brings her back to Wuthering Heights. On Edgar is at church, Heathcliff comes to see Cathe passionate scene. That night Catherine gives bir and dies. On the night after the funeral, Hind Heathcliff but is nearly killed by him. Isabella es ering Heights and goes to the South of England birth to a sickly child named Linton Heathclift Hindley dies of drink, and Heathcliff is left in p



#### Examples of Marginalia Extensive marginalia in "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" by Phillip K. Dick including extensive writing and underlining.

#### PRILIP K. DICK

car into a glisling decline. "Or anyhow that's how it strikes me. I'm golig to kill you," he said. "And go on to Roy and I'mngard Italy and Pris Stratton alone."

"That's why you're landing?" Apprehensively, she said, "There's a fine; Tim the property, die legal property, of the association. Tim not an escaped android who fied here from Mars; I'm not in the same class as the others. "I'm not in the same class as the others."

"But," he said, "if I can kill you then I can kill them." Her hands dived for her hulging, oversuffied, kipple-filled purse; she searched frantically, then gave up, "Goddams this purse," she said with freedoity. "I never can lay my hands on anything in it. Will you kill me in a way that won't hurt? I mean, do it carefully. If I don't fight, skay? I promise not to

fight. Do you agree?". Rick said, "I understand now why Phil Resch said what he said. He wasn't being cynical; he had just learned too much. Going through this—I can't blame him. It warped him."

Comp introduct intervent ways ways the seemed more externally composed now. But still fundamentally frantic and tense. Yet, the dark fire waned, the life force oozed out of her, as he had so often witnessed before with other androids. The classic resignation. Mechanical, intellectual acceptance of that which a genuine organism—with two billion years of the pressure to live and evolve hagriding it—could never have reconciled itself to.

<sup>1</sup> can't stand the way you androids give up," he said savagely. The car now swooped almost to the ground, he had to jerk the wheel toward him to avoid a crash. Braking, he managed to bring the car to a staggering, careening halt; he slammed off the motor and go out his laser tube. "At the occipital hone, the posterior base of my skull." ADROIDS DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP?

build his laser tube away. Rick said, "I can't do what a Reach said." He snapped the motor back on, and a set later they had taken off again. "I you're ever going to do it," Rachael said, "do it now

at make me wait." pro to?

The not given for an Arancisco once again. "Your don of downtown San Francisco once again. "Your ry at the St. Francis, isn't it? Til let you off there and an head for Seattle." That ended what he had to say: down in silence.

"Danks for not killing me." Rachael said presently. "Bell, as you said, you've only got two years of life left, how. And I've got fifty. I'll live twenty-free times as long

But you really look down on me," Rachael said. "For thail did: "Assurance had returned to her, the linuxy of it mice picked up pace, "You've gone the way of her offits The bounty hunters's before you. Each time they getsthe and talk, wildly, about killing me, but shen the intertions they can't do it. Just like you, just now. "So lit "Garette, inhaled with relish. "You realize what this hum, don't you?" It means I was right, you won't be also liftle any more androids, it won't be just me, it'll be the shift and Strattion, too. So on home to your gast. And it stome rest." Suddenly she brushed at her can, vie-"by me, "She sank back against the sast, relaxing it sains nothing.

 Examples of Marginalia Extensive marginalia in "Frankenstein" including extensive writing and underlining.

ANKENSTEIN ther storm enlightened In ther darkened and sometimes d ed mountain to the east of the lake ned the storm, so beautiful yet terrific watched the set. This noble war in the sky et dered on with a hasy step myspirity: I clasped my hands, and exclaimed aloud, y riss I clasped my haneral, this thy dirge!' As I said the dear angell this is thy function a figure which stole fits words, I perceived in the gloom a figure which stole fits words. I perceived in the star me; I stood fixed, gazing behind a clump of trees near me; I stood fixed, gazing is behind a chimp of user mistaken. A flash of lightning in tently, I could not be mistaken its share bightning in nated the object, and discovered its shape plainly to me nated the object, and the deformity of its aspect, more hideon egantic stature, and the deterministic informed me that it has beings to humanity, instantly informed me that it has than belongs to numarity on to whom I had given life. What the wretch, the hind the be (I shuddered at the conception) did he there? Could he be (I shuddered at the conception) did he there? Could in brother? No sooner did that idea cross the murdered of my inagination, than I became convinced of its truth; the teeth chattered, and I was forced to lean against a tree for support. The figure passed me quickly, and I lost it in the gloom. Nothing in human shape could have destroyed the fair child. He was the murderer! I could not doubt it. The mere presence of the idea was an irresistible proof of the fact I thought of pursuing the devil; but it would have been in vain, for another flash discovered him to me hanging among the rocks of the nearly perpendicular ascent of Mont Salève, a hill that bounds Plainpalais on the south. He soon reached the summit, and disappeared.

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**Examples of Marginalia** • "O Pioneers!" with extensive marginalia including underlining, vertical line and writing.

#### Hair= symbol of vigor strengt vitality - old women have it too O PIONEERS!

bared when she took off her veil; two thick braids, pinned about her head in the German way, with a fringe of reddish-yellow curls blowing out from under her cap. He took his cigar out of his mouth and held the wet end between the fingers of his woolen glove. "My God, girl, what a head of hair!" he exclaimed, quite innocently and foolishly. She stabbed him with a glance of Amazonian fierceness and drew in her lower lip - most unnecessary severity. It gave the little clothing drummer such a start that he actually let his cigar fall to the sidewalk and went off weakly in the teeth of the wind to the saloon. His hand was still unsteady when he took his glass from the bartender. His feeble flirtatious instincts had been crushed before, but never so mercilessly. He felt cheap and ill-used, as if some one had taken advantage of him. When a drummer had been knocking about in little drab towns and crawling across the wintry country in dirty smokingcars, was he to be blamed if, when he chanced upon a fine human creature, he suddenly wished

Incident

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himself more of a man? While the little drummer was drinking to

#### THE WILD LAND

recover his nerve, Alexandra hurried to the drug store as the most likely place to find Carl folio of chromo "studies" which the druggist Suggrato Linstrum. There he was, turning over a portfolio of chromo studies what the did china- to the painting. Alexandra explained her predica-weat ment, and the boy followed her to the corner,

Carl 15 yrs old

where Emil still sat by the pole. "I'll have to go up after her, Alexandra. I

think at the depot they have some spikes I can strap on my feet. Wait a minute." Carl thrust his hands into his pockets, lowered his head, and darted up the street against the north wind. He was a tall boy of fifteen, slight and narrow-chested. When he came back with the spikes, Alexandra asked him what he had done

"I left it in the drug store. I could n't climb with his overcoat. in it, anyhow. Catch me if I fall, Emil," he called back as he began his ascent. Alexandra watched him anxiously; the cold was bitter enough on the ground. The kitten would not budge an inch. Carl had to go to the very top of the pole, and then had some difficulty in tearing her from her hold. When he reached the

• Examples of Marginalia in Extensive marginalia in "O Pioneers!" including creating a family tree to understand the characters and relationships.

Bartley- winifids mother-son Bartley - Winifred Hilda - Mac Connell Bartley passistida Clara - Olaf = mad marriage Clara - father = good relat. Clara - Nils Lou - Hnnie Lee Oscar-Missourie gal dangudaughter daughter Sadre (15) Stella Son son son (4) (the youngest)

#### Examples of Marginalia "Waiting for Godot" with extensive marginalia including underlining, boxing and writing.

otherwise. To VLADIMIR: You waagerrim? POZZO: I beg your pardon? VLADIMIR: You want to get rid of him? Pozzo: I do. But instead of driving him away as I might have done, I mean instead of simply kicking him out on his arse, in the goodness of my heart I am bringing him to the fair, where I hope to get a good price for him. The truth is you can't drive such creatures away. The best thing would be to kill them. Lucky weeps. ESTRAGON: He's crying! POZZO: Old dogs have more dignity. (He proffers his handkerchief to Estragon.) Comfort him, since you pity him. (Estragon hesitates.) Come on. (Estragon takes the handkerchief.) Wipe away his tears, he'll feel less forsaken. Estragon hesitates. Here, give it to me, I'll do it. MCCC VLADIMIR: Estragon refuses to give the handkerchief. Childish gestures. pozzo: Make haste, before he stops. (Estragon approaches Lucky and makes to wipe his eyes. Lucky kicks He treats uccylice a DOGI him violently in the shins. Estragon drops the



#### Examples of Marginalia "Walden Two" by B.F. Skinner with extensive marginalia including highlighting, and use of a triangle.

sulash, a soufflé, and lamb chops. A small poster descillash, a soufflé, and lamb chops. A small poster descilled the goulash, gave something of its history, and showed its country of origin on a small map. Frazier alled from all parts of the world were constantly being dishes from all parts of the world were constantly being tried out and included in the Walden Two menus according to demand. We all took the goulash and added salad and butter also. It was the same bread that we had bread and butter also. It was the same bread that we had had at tea, and it had been delicious, but by force of habit we all started to pass it by. Bread was apparently a favorite topic of Frazier's and served as text for another guidebook harangue.

"The commercial baker," he said as he made sure that we all got thick slices, "tries to produce a satisfactory loaf with the fewest and cheapest materials. Here the goal is in the other direction. Our cooks have to prepare the food we produce so that it will be eaten. They want to get as much into a loaf of bread as possible. It would be no achievement whatsoever to make an equally delicious loaf with less butter or cheaper starches. They would only have to prepare what they had saved in some other form."

He looked at us with raised eyebrows, like a magician who has just performed an astonishing feat, and then led the way toward one of the modern rooms, where we found a brightly colored table against which our glass rays glistened. The trays were elliptical, with a large lepression at each end. Smaller compartments and a eccess for a cup filled the middle section. We all put the ays down parallel to the edge of the table, but Frazier owed us how to arrange them spokewise around the ble, so that we could have the main dish conveniently front of us, with the cup and smaller compartments thin easy reach. When we were ready for dessert, the

#### Examples of Marginalia "Walden Two" with extensive marginalia including highlighting, writing, symbols and numbering with possible significance.

possible chance of En tial Manager sees to that win evices. And we don't restrict emoded customs, We the Good Life

We get that in Walden Two almost as a matter of course or merely because we have reduced our hours of but not merely because we have reduced our hours of work. In the world at large the leisure class is perhaps the least relaxed. The important thing is to a satisfy our needs. Then we can give up the blind struggle to 'have needs. Then we can give up the blind struggle to 'have a good time' or 'get what we want.' We have achieved a true leisure.

"And that's all, Mr. Castle-absolutely all. I can't give 148

tign that he was listening. Frazier a agene, Profes "Do y

ntempt for the honorific title. "I don't think you and I are into

Well, that's what we are interested in, and I think

"Well, that's what we are interested in, and a we've turned the trick," said Paralet, obviously disappointed. "Things are going well, at least." "As I reasonible it, you made short where to perfect tionism." I said. "Aren't you adopting a such that people will itonist view yournell? Loans seems to imply this people will There is no perfect in forcet Now there's an U-huminating expression? You can't service harppings. You can't in the long run enforce anything. We don't use forced Alis we need is accurate behavioral engineering. "Now we're getting somewhere," said Castle, looking on both rull rather plane.

but still rather glum. for the bers who come to us as adults," said Frazier. "It's easier with members who are born into the community and pass through our school system. With new adult members we al to something like conversion.

I should think sol" said Castle

"It's not so difficult," said Frazier suspiciously. "The new member simply agrees to follow the customs of the





#### Words and Phrases are Underlined

- It may have significant meaning within the story or just because the reader is unfamiliar with the word or phrase. The reader may not have encountered the single word or group of words previously and determines that now is the time to consult a dictionary. Was the reader indicating an unfamiliarity with the word or possibly a cultural challenge as with "company truck?"
- Some hardcore vocabulary drilling of a few hundred words or phrases most encountered in the American vernacular might be exactly what will help readers understand just what the author is referring to.



#### Why Does The Reader Choose Certain Symbols?

- There is the use of many symbols, but the use may be just for emphasis, or the reader may have a code such as an x is important, but an asterisk is very important. We often see the use of one asterisk, two asterisks, three asterisks and even four asterisks by the same marginalia writer. Are we to conclude that they are a form of rating like for films?
- Or is it possible that a patron is more likely to have an affinity with a certain symbol based on country of origin? There is the accepted meaning of a symbol and then what it means to the patron. There is what the symbol means in the USA that differs in other countries in the same way that the same word means something different in one country and differs in meaning in other countries.
- Is symbol meaning solidified enough in USA to teach in the same way we teach vocabulary?
- I am confident that symbols and their use in marginalia warrants additional research.



#### Marginalia Makers Desire To Know The Author

- Time after time I saw proof of the marginalist's desire to know more about the writer's development of character and to fully understand what the writer was trying to say. The maker pressed and prodded employing marginalia as guideposts to see more and understand more.
- Perhaps the reader would benefit from a workshop in <u>literary criticism</u> to understand proven and accessible ways to analyze a work and delve into its meaning, how do critics an scholars apprehend a work and move from casual reader to unlocking understanding at a level that sates and even excites? A workshop or two offered by the library as a tool for the reader might be interesting and help the reader understand all the more. Librarians could lead the way.



#### As Printed Books Pass Away

Finally, as we watch print books diminish and electronic books and databases
rise are we troubled that the creators of marginalia, and especially on the
magnitude of Dick's work and Cather's work, where they are writing on every
page and in many cases many times on a page, will be duplicated in the
electronic device? Or will there be a gap in which marginalia is lost for a
period and then regained in the future with new and better solutions? Or is it
really lost and never to be regained again? Of course, this loss is already
accepted in common weeding. Books are weeded and chosen for the trash
and marginalia lost..