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I am totally agree with Cxxx.

To me, it is not very respectful to write notes when I read a book for fun : I consider that a book is something very precious and we have to take care of it, as I see it, writing notes on a page of a novel could be like painting a painting, it is not ours, we don't have to damage it... I think we are just allowed to read a book, not to write on the pages, we can take as many notes as we want on another page so that we will not damage the book.

But, for the texts we read in class I think it is important to annotate because it help us to summarize and understand the topic.

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I quite agree with Jxxxx.

I think that for school, it could be good to annotate the text or even essential in some cases. Because when you read that type or books (texts) there is a special purpose. You want to extract some specific things for example what the main character do at this moment, why, what this author means bye this or that ... To answer that questions it's necessary.

But when you read a book "for fun" (even if it does not happen to me so many times), I prefer to read it correctly without any notes and maybe thinking after about what you've just read. It offer many advantages you could make a sort of debate with yourself and change your mind it's not "fixed" as written words it also permit to let the book in the way that you found it.

Moreover when i read a book fool of my mother's annotations I hate it, it confused the sense of the story (according to me). So i prefer to let the books in the state that they were before I used them (I agree with Charly on that point).

About e-books, I don't think that's a good idea paper is a bit "traditional" and of course I'm not against technology (I use it every day). But in this special case I think that the "traditional book" have to stay with paper. I think that it's better to share paper than files sometimes. In this way the book keep a sort of soul.

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Cxxx and Exxx said exactly what I think.

I don't think that writing on a book will offend the author: he has written a book to spark up reactions, feelings. So why don't annotate the book, in this way our reading is more active, and the comprehension of the text becomes more personal.

I don't like to annotate books that I read for fun: I read them to entertain myself, to have pleasure in this activity and not to be with my pencil scribbling all over the pages.

However I like to annotate the books that we study in class, because if we try to analyze the text, it is interesting to quote the feelings that the text provoked, to underline what is relevant. When I read articles in magazines or newspaper I sometimes underline what is important, the key ideas. In this way, I find that I can understand better; I can concentrate more on the text.

Regarding eBooks, I think they can be very useful, but personally I prefer to buy paper books, and keep them on a shelf (or at least, the ones I like). I like to have a pile of books in my bedroom, and in that way I remember every book I've read (otherwise I would forget), and I can reread them. They are physically there, not virtual, behind a screen (but have to admit that it takes a lot of space to have all those books!)

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I never write margins in my books, whether they are for fun or for school, excepting when it comes to books in another language than French, in which case it is only translation margins (for vocabulary or grammar). I don't do that, not because, like Cxxx and Axxx I think books are sacred (I'll come back to that later), but because I don't like to do so.

It is a habit I don't have (even if I enjoy having a book with margins of previous readers (family, friends or even strangers) to know what were their feelings, impressions about the story) because :

- with books for fun, I wouldn't like my margins to spoil the story if I came to read a book again ;
- with books for school, I usually don't read them twice (since we don't have novels anymore but economics books) and I prefer taking a sheet of paper to summarize and annotate them, to not have to go back through them again and because, as Axxx said, if I want to sell them when I'm done, it is better off margins (though people buying second-hand books can find margins of previous readers useful).

About the fact that, according to Cxxx and Axxx, books are sacred and we don't own them even if we bought them, I really don't have the same point of view : I think that as soon as a writer decides to publish his work, it doesn't only belong to him anymore !

He will always be the author of what you're reading, but from the moment he decides to share a story, an opinion, etc., it is for you to be part of it, to identify to the characters, to agree or disagree with him.

Reading is (supposed to be) an interactive experience : I don't believe that anyone can actually stay passive, out of the story, doesn't laugh, cry, get angry, wonder, get surprised, while reading a book. And if so then maybe 1°) this book is not made for him/her, or 2°) the author is not such a great one...

That is why I can't agree more with the fact, as Axxxx and Cxx said, that e-books will never be the same as real, physical books. I find reading through a screen really impersonal : you don't touch nor turn the pages, can't smell the dusty odor of books that stayed in your grand-parents attic or a basement for too long, appreciate the cover, or put a pretty bookmark in it. And even though they are really practical for those travelling and reading a lot since they take a lot less space, they are much more fragile and likely to be damaged or stolen (if, like Nxxx, you enjoy reading everywhere : your bath, the subway, the beach), and can't be lent that easily. And for those saying it is a cheaper way to have loads of books, regarding the price of, for example, a Kindle, I'm not convinced you actually save money...

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I usually consider books as pieces of art. The fact is, when you buy, for example, a sculpture, you own it even though you haven't made it. And you are free to do whatever you want with it, the sculptor is not going to call you to know what you did with it. That's the same for books. You have to feel free when you're reading, otherwise there is no pleasure.

Well, writing notes in the margins can be the translation of that freedom and that pleasure of reading as is discussing about the book with someone. Except that, in this case, you are discussing with yourself. And as said Axxxx, the author wrote the book on purpose. So it will not offend him.

But, I also think, like Cxxx, that reading is something really personal and as him, I felt quite ill-at-ease when it came to annotate the short story. Because I knew I HAD to do it. And for me it meant that I had to share my feelings. So it was like I was not free with that story.

Anyway, when it comes to annotate my school books it really relevant. And I love to do it, and I always do it. Because, I think that really makes you focus on what is important so that you can understand what you read. And also, because I don't really like to search for minutes an information in the book, so it makes the research way easier.

Concerning, the books I read for "fun", I never annotate them. Because most of the time I am so into the story, that I can't concentrate on another thing. And also because I don't really feel the need of annotating my books. But it doesn't mean that I don't have any opinions or feelings about what I read.

Finally, let's talk about eBooks. I personally don't like this concept even though I understand it. It is true that it can be less expensive when you are a big reader. But like Axxx, I like to see my drawers and shelves filled with books. Also, I like to feel the paper on my fingers, in my opinion, it makes the experience more realistic.

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I quite agree with Axxxxx:

I mean that if I annotate a book for school, it helps me to remember the main ideas and to understand the text.

But I think that we shouldn't annote books which aren't school's books: in my opinion, reading is a personal activity and we must read a virgin book to make our personnal view of the story.

If we want to share our feelings and our interpretation of the book, we should discuss after the reading.

If someone lend me an annotated book, it will disturbs me: it would be like if someone was reading over my shoulder, suggesting me what to think...

Me either, I do not like e-books: a paper book is something you can share, if you like a story, you want to lend the book to your friends or your family and with e-books , it's impossible.

Yes you can have many stories in but you can't separate one of the others!