

1. **Actually read the assigned story:** This class requires that you actually read the story. You will probably waste more time looking for spark notes than reading the story itself. Plus you will not get to appreciate the language and style the author uses if you do not read the actual story.
2. **Don't be afraid to write in your book:** One strategy that I picked up a quarter of the way into the semester was getting into the habit of writing in my text book. I never wanted to write in my book because it would reduce the resale value of the book. But writing in the book helped me read and retain information better.
 - a. **Write key words in the margin to remind you of what a paragraph is about.** This will help you find the passage later on when you need it. It also helps refresh your memory of what happened and makes reviewing so much easier.
 - b. **Under line interesting and important phrases, keywords, quotes, and descriptions.** Most likely, you will need to use these in class discussions or assignments. It also helps with scanning the page for specific passages.
 - c. **Mark which passages have been discussed in class.** There is a high chance of these appearing on the midterm or final exam.
3. **Do the assignments on time:** There's a heavy work load in this class. It is not fun to get behind. Read on a daily basis and make it a habit! It will only help you in the future. And if that doesn't convince you, consider this: Let's say that the midterm is exactly in the middle of the semester. That makes it 9 weeks into the semester. This class meets 3 times a week. On average, there are about 2 to 3 hours of reading assigned. That's 54 to 81 hours of reading to do the night before the exam! Think you'll get a good grade? Not going to happen!
4. **Make your index card for exams.** This is like your cheat sheet. Fill it out with things you know she will definitely test you on, and things that you think will help you. Don't forget to add key concepts and literary eras to your note card.