Tamiria Dixon

 Dr. Despain

Transdisciplinary Communication

 October 29, 2024

Reflection #7

My first experience annotating a text was in my sophomore year of high school.

Hearing the word annotation, automatically intrigued me. I soon learned that annotating is

a reading tool to help students understand ideas and highlight important details they find in

the text. After practicing this skill a couple times, I could say that my comprehension of text

has improved.

In The Great River, the author uses figurative language to describe the Mississippi River.

Boyce Upholt utilizes phrases such as "whole trees-ancient, massive sentinels that might

weigh as much as sixty tons-shed into the water, sometimes hundreds at a time (Upholt

74)". The previous quote demonstrates the author's ability to incorporate a simile that

compares the weight of trees to water. More importantly, this comparison allows readers to

comprehend the true importance of water by revealing its weight. Another example of

figurative language that the authors use is metaphors. As the writer explains Jefferson's

ideals regarding the idea of men owning land. He shared that Jefferson associated land

with a fulfillment of resources, with the benefit of becoming your own boss. The author

writes that " The only shared resource he spoke of was the river itself, the highway into his

promised land (Upholt 75)". Metaphors similar to the one listed allows for readers to further

connect with ideas such as land as it relates to history. It can be said that these items of

figurative languages were all examples I used annotated, in order to gain a deeper

understanding of the text. More importantly, highlighting these quotes allowed

me to analyze the history of the Mississippi, while being able to understand the river's

importance regarding resources.