

Adler



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

All about the art of book marking Books are the most intricate passages which assist & guide an individual to delve amidst the abyss of literary bliss. A book is simply not just a book. Sometimes it is a companion, sometimes it is a guide, sometimes it's a source of vigor, and sometimes it's a balm which heals the psychological pathos. The habit of reading & discovering undoubtedly survives as one of the most ethereal experiences achieved on this planet.

An aggrandized comportment of reading & deciphering a book involves a precise process. It involves reading, concentrating, loving & ultimately marking. Of these 'marking' has been the issue which has been repeatedly cultivated. Marking has been an age old tradition for indigenous book addicts, & they have been the greatest champions of this approach. But is marking really effective in reality as its propagators quote to it to be? This answer requires a few notions to be discoursed.

First let's be clear; marking books is necessary but not obligatory. A reader who is enjoying a book from a spiritual plane may not require marking a book as he automatically gets involved with the metaphysical components of the book. Here a fundamental perception must be clarified. Marking a book is nothing more than an intellectual phenomenon. A person who does not possess the heart & soul of concentrating in the labyrinth of the pages can never attain his goal solely resting on the process of marking. The entire process of marking is of a cliché orientation. It encourages a person to scribble & squander the beauty of the mother article thereby destroying its tranquility. Yes, marking is a necessary aspect of reading. But it can never be the heart of it. It involves a mechanical process which may prove devastating for the reader's psychic quotient. Reading should be all about

enjoying, not writing & criticizing on the mother article right from the introduction. Finally all books do not require marking. The subject of the book determines the logic as what should be done with it. Indiscriminate marking in each & every book only alleviates complexity.

Marking nevertheless has helped me in getting over numerous socio-political theories in books like Machiavelli's, 'The Prince', Karl Marx's 'Das Capital' & Robert Bresson's 'Theory of Film Language'. The markings in these books were mainly simplified summaries of the original text. It was written with the Endeavour to explore the inner world of these literatures in an easier manner.

A brief note Mortimer Adler's idea of marking

Adler develops a unique & interesting method to read books by reinventing the art of book marking. He emphasizes on the notion that a book can be properly owned only after it has been marked in systematic way. He feels that marking is the only way through which a reader can delve into 'the heart of a book'. Alder says that the man who truly owns his books would fail to preserve them as all the books would remain in a depleted & ill maintained condition.

Adler finally speaks about the course of action which teaches to mark a book smartly. The enumerated process includes underlining major points, use of critical lines at the margin, using star, or asterisks sparingly, marking with numbers to indicate the sequence of points, etc. Numbers of other pages in the margin should indicate where else in the Book the author made points relevant to the point marked. Circling of key words or phrases can be done within a book. Finally a note can be written in the margin, or at the top or bottom of the page.

A brief note on Sam Anderson's work

In a nutshell, Sam Anderson's marking manual is a more updated & modernized version of his predecessor's work. Anderson denotes that he was initially quite apprehensive about Adler's theories but as time passed he felt that it was the most wonderful way of treating & analyzing a book. Anderson takes the process of book marking to the next level when he justifies it as an indigenous form of art. He says that reading a book without marking is equivalent to 'eat a candy through its wrapper'.

A brief estimation of the theologies

It is unquestionable that Adler develops & procreates the unique phenomenon of book marking. Nevertheless it emerges as a rigid & mechanical approach towards reading a book. Anderson too follows in his footsteps. He implements creative ideas into this subject but in the end one feels that it is practically impossible to inject flexibility & creativity amidst rigidity. The indiscriminate marking of books for the sake of intellectualism seems a cliché idea. Anderson speaks of 'rolling around in the text' whereby he means to gather & collect all the proteins & vitamins embedded within the layers & dimensions of a book. We may conclude it as a novel idea but the point remains that this process can never be universally applicable.