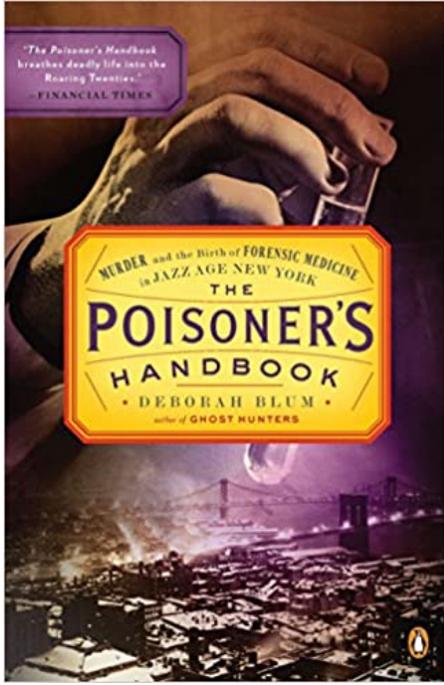


STEM Honors 10th Summer Reading

Obtain a **physical copy** of *The Poisoner's Handbook* by Deborah Blum. Then, complete the annotation assignment that follows as you read the book this summer. You will have the summer AND the first two weeks to complete the assignment as we research topics from the book in class. You will turn in your annotated book **Friday, August 13 by 11:59 pm; that date may change**.

The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum



Equal parts true crime, twentieth-century history, and science thriller, *The Poisoner's Handbook* is "a vicious, page-turning story that reads more like Raymond Chandler than Madame Curie." —*The New York Observer*

"The Poisoner's Handbook breathes deadly life into the Roaring Twenties." —*Financial Times*

"Reads like science fiction, complete with suspense, mystery and foolhardy guys in lab coats tipping test tubes of mysterious chemicals into their own mouths." —*NPR: What We're Reading*

A fascinating Jazz Age tale of chemistry and detection, poison and murder, *The Poisoner's Handbook* is a page-turning account of a forgotten era. In early twentieth-century New York, poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Science had no place in the Tammany Hall-controlled coroner's office, and corruption ran rampant. However, with the appointment of chief medical examiner Charles Norris in 1918, the poison game changed forever. Together with toxicologist Alexander Gettler, the duo set the justice system on fire with their trailblazing scientific detective work, triumphing over seemingly unbeatable odds to become the pioneers of forensic chemistry and the gatekeepers of justice.

First, read [HOW TO MARK A BOOK](#) by Mortimer J. Adler, Ph.D. ([LINK TO ARTICLE](#)).

As you read, annotate your book by writing notes, comments, insights, symbols in the margins of your book. If writing in a book feels wrong and you cannot bring yourself to do that, they please use post it notes throughout your book with your notes and comments written on them. There is no right or wrong way to annotate; everyone is different. However you decide to mark up your book, make sure that you include the following annotations throughout the entire book:

- Connections:
 - Make connections to modern day science
 - Make connections within the book itself
 - Make connections to other books, real world events, movies, TV shows, etc.
 - Make personal connections
- Commentary
 - Summarize chapters at the end
 - Write observations, clarification, questions in the margins throughout the chapters.
- Highlight or underline unknown words and define them in the margins
- Identify literary devices the author uses to explain/describe scientific concepts/people/ideas
 - Similes and metaphors, personification, alliteration, etc.
- Identify and analyze the author's:
 - point of view (narrator's perspective/voice)

- tone (attitude toward subject)
- diction (style of speaking and word choice)
- syntax (sentences and their patterns)

Please make sure your annotations are thorough throughout the entire book. The expectation is that there are multiple annotations within each chapter and AT LEAST 2-3 markings per page.

Example:

The image shows two pages from a book, page -2- and page -3-, with extensive handwritten annotations in black ink. The text on the pages is from a story, and the annotations include words like '3rd person', 'Tension', 'Small commentary', 'family dispute', 'honour', 'property ownership', 'inheritance', 'land', 'A = stubborn, self-confident', 'Separating family interests', 'work', 'brothers = determined men vs. women', 'superior attitude', 'men/women's rights', 'brothers united', 'brain vs. brawn', 'the absent man, Carl', 'she's independent - they're influenced Alex. forced by community to push herself', 'A. has done most to build up the business', 'Adventure, hardship new frontiers', and 'Turn over/Voir au dos/Vaise al deors Sounds like a call - a rallying cry before a march'. The task label 'TASK 2: RE-READING AND ANNOTATING [10-30 MINUTES]' is written at the bottom of page -2-. The page number 'PART ONE' is visible at the bottom of page -2-.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Ann Tucker: ann.tucker@cobbk12.org