Annotation #1 Assignment
Due Thursday March 15 (in class)

Choose and copy two pages from one (or two) the texts we've read this semester—either two consecutive pages from a prose text or two related poems. Annotate this two-page excerpt closely by making **legible** notes in the margins. (If they don't fit, you can use the back of the page or insert an additional page). Focus on the following details:

- The text's structure
- Any subtext, implicit meanings, or ambiguities
- Gestures toward defining what it means to be human–or the complexities of representing the human
- Literary elements like voice, metaphor, image, symbol
- Interesting patterns of language or form
- Signs of intertextuality, including quotations or allusions from other texts; references to other writers; conventions of a literary tradition; images or language shared with other texts; or anything that feels like an echo of another text
- Any detail that seems related to conversations we've had in class
- Details you find interesting, for whatever reason

In addition, write a two-page reflection on your annotations: What did you learn about these particular pages or the text as a whole when you annotated it so closely?

Advice
- Annotation is an aspect of active reading. Active reading, the opposite of passively consuming a text, makes the text your own. It allows you to begin to speak meaningfully and intelligently about the literary work. That should be your goal in writing your annotations. To read actively you have to really become involved in responding to the text and in noticing your responses.
- Your reflection should develop a particular focus (rather than describing an exhaustive or arbitrary set of observations). For example, you might focus on structure, subtext, definitions of the human, or any other relevant questions. It's fine to focus on more than one question or element, so long as you can show how they are related.

*Note: You might choose to include William Shakespeare or Emily Dickinson poems we haven't read together.