

## What is a Close Reading?

Close Reading is simple - reading a text closely, looking at the **details** and discussing how those details lead you to **make conclusions** about the text and explain the **significance of the text**. You also look at the little pieces and **determine patterns** (how those pieces connect as a whole).

Close reading is not just a reading strategy, but also a writing strategy because you interact with text through writing, such as **in-text annotations** and **written responses**. Close reading is meant to help you gain a better understanding of a text and to provide you with the necessary textual evidence to support your understanding and interpretation.

## Goals of Close Reading

1. Understand the general content even if the text is difficult
2. Spot techniques writers use to get ideas/feelings/themes across and explain how they work
3. Judge whether the writer's techniques succeed or fail
4. Compare and contrast writing techniques

## How to do a Close Reading

1. Read the text
  - a. Determine the general meaning of the text
  - b. Make annotations to help your understanding of the text.
    - i. Summarize sections of the text
    - ii. Underline important terms and names
    - iii. Define unfamiliar vocabulary
    - iv. Ask questions in the margins
2. Read again looking at details
  - a. Examine the author's writing techniques and methods.
    - i. This is when you look for literary devices, text structure, and author's craft
    - ii. Determine how those writing techniques create meaning
3. Read a final time
  - a. This is when you make conclusions about the text using techniques and methods from step two.
  - b. Address the theme and/or the tone, and evaluate the text as a whole
  - c. Make connections with the text and with other texts.