**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.

**How to do a Close Reading**

1. Read the text slowly at least twice
   1. Determine the general meaning (the gist) of the text
   2. Circle words you aren’t sure of and try to figure them out
   3. Make annotations to help your understanding of the text.
      1. Summarize sections of the text
      2. Underline important terms and names
      3. Define unfamiliar vocabulary
      4. Ask questions in the margins
2. Read again looking at details
   1. Use the text to answer questions
   2. Gather evidence (quotes) from the text to support your answers
   3. Examine the author’s writing techniques and methods.
      1. This is when you look for literary devices, text structure, and author’s craft
      2. Determine how those writing techniques create meaning
3. Read a final time
   1. This is when you make conclusions about the text using techniques and methods from step two.
   2. Address the theme and/or the tone, and evaluate the text as a whole
   3. Make connections with the text and with other texts.
   4. Summarize

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