**All About Close Reading**

**What is Close Reading?**

Close reading is simple – reading a text closely, looking at the details and discussing how those details lead you to made conclusions about the text and explain the significance of the text. You also look at the little pieces and determine patterns or how they connect as a whole.

Close reading is not just a ready strategy, but it is also a writing strategy because you interact with the 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 or not the writer’s techniques succeed or fail
4. Compare and contrast writing techniques

**How to Do a Close Reading**

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| **1st Reading** | Just read! Determine the general meaning of the text. Make annotations to help your understanding of the text. Summarize sections, underline important terms and names, etc., define unfamiliar vocabulary, and ask questions. |
| **2nd Reading** | Examine the author’s writing techniques and methods. This is when you look for literary devices, the text structure, and the author’s craft, and then you determine how those writing techniques create meaning, |
| **3rd Reading** | This is when you make conclusions about the text using the techniques and methods from your 2nd reading as textual evidence. You will address the theme and/or the tone, and evaluate the text as a whole. This is also the time to make connections within the text itself and with other texts. |