

## What is “Close Reading Annotation”?

Close reading is where you really DEAL with the words in a passage of text. You don't just read to understand, you dig deeper and ANNOTATE the text. It's a way to keep track of your thoughts and connect with the text on a deeper level.

But how do I DO it?



As you read, you will use a highlighter and writing utensil to:

- If you're annotating a writing prompt, underline each action step and number them.
- List each numbered action step below the prompt in your own words.
- For general texts, highlight key passages, phrases or turning points that you think may be important
- Write marginal notes: questions, comments, dialogue with the text itself—**CAUTION!!!!** Make sure your comments advance or further your critical understanding of the text. Don't just write random things!
- Look for patterns in the author's writing.
- Look for use of figurative language or literary devices you might recognize. Mark and label these.
- Use a dictionary to look up words you don't know; write their definition in a box outside the text.
- Make note of specific imagery—is imagery important? If it lacks imagery, why?
- Ask this: does the author make allusions to things I'm supposed to recognize or connect with? What is being alluded to?
- Look at structure—how is the passage organized? Is this structure important?
- Think about irony—is there any? What kind of irony is it?
- Write a list of questions you have about the text to ask in class.
- Next, identify the SOAPStone for the quote.

S—Who's the Speaker (name or character details)?

O—What's the Occasion (time, place, situation)?

A—Who's the Audience in this quote?

P—What's the Purpose of this particular quotation? (make sure this is a verb “to...” ex: to punish, to persuade, to annoy, to anger, to seduce, to baffle, etc.)

S—What's the Subject (real world themes, connections, clichés)

T—What's the Tone (how does this character sound)?

I'm done. What was the point of that?

If you did this activity correctly, you just dug into the text to find multiple layers of meaning and deeper critical understanding! You will NOT need to do this for everything you read, but when you do, you should get more out of it.

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