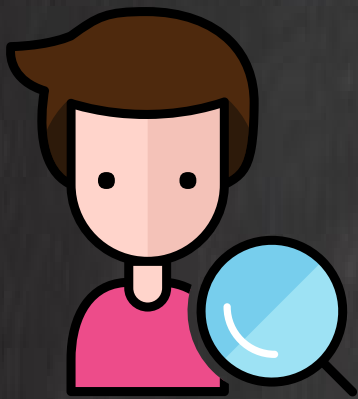


# Close Reading

Tips and strategies to use with your students in class

[www.educatorstechnology.com](http://www.educatorstechnology.com)



## What is close reading?

"Close, analytic reading stresses engaging with a text of sufficient complexity directly and examining its meaning thoroughly and methodically, encouraging students to read and reread deliberately....[It] entails the careful gathering of observations about a text and careful consideration about what those observations taken together add up to" (PARCC, 2011, p. 6).

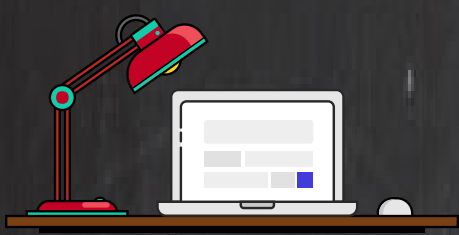
## Close reading tips

(Hinchman & Moore, 2013)



### 1. Read and re-read

Close reading involves reading the text multiple times (usually 3 times or more). Each reading uncovers a layer of meaning and incrementally works towards building the general comprehension of the text.



### 2. Annotate

Annotating is an instrumental practice in purposeful close reading. It involves jotting down notes, highlighting key lexical terms and grammatical structures, and identifying topical ideas and factual information.



### 3. Summarize

Through summarizing and synthesizing, close readers get to consolidate their overall understanding of the text making sure every nuance of meaning is captured.



### 4. Self-explain

Self-explaining involves figuring out "how ideas and information relate to one another. Ask and answer questions about the text."

### 5. Determine the significance of what you notice

Identify the rationale why you think certain ideas in the text are more significant than others.

## Close reading questions

### Text-based questions

- What is the text about?
- How does the text establish the setting?
- What keywords and phrases the author use to signal the general topic/theme of the text?
- What inferences can you make about the topic of the text from your first reading?
- What words or phrases you did not understand in the text?
- Who is speaking in the text?
- Why did the author write the text?
- Who is addressed in the text?
- Which language cues did you find helpful in understanding the text?
- Does the text embed visual images? If so, how do they align with the content of the text?
- Is the text cohesive? What textual features used to connect sentences and paragraphs together?
- Is the text coherent? Explain how?

### Reader-based questions

- Did you draw on your prior knowledge to understand the text?
- Did you find any parts of the text confusing and why?
- How did you overcome a particular difficulty you had with the text?
- What do you think about the topic of the text?
- Do you agree/disagree with the author's stance regarding...?
- If you were the author of this text, what would you have changed in its content and why?
- What do you think about the language of the text?



### Sources

- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. (2011). Model content frameworks: English language arts/literacy, grades 3–11. Retrieved November 16, 2012, from [www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-framework](http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-framework)
- Hinchman, K. & Moore, D. (2013). Close readingA: A cautionary interpretation. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 56(6), pp.441-450
- Lapp, D., Grant, M., Moss, B., & Johnson, K. Students' close reading of science texts: What's now? What's next? *The Reading Teacher*, 67(2), pp. 109–119
- Understanding Close Reading. Weareteachers : <https://www.weareteachers.com/understanding-close-reading-download-our-infographic-now/>