## **Close Reading Strategy Tool Kit**

**Defined**: A close reading is a 2nd or 3rd reading of the text. It is an intensive analysis of a text in order to come to terms with what it says, how it says it, and what it means. It is the process one goes through to find make meaning of the text to understand a big idea or answer an essential question. Furthermore, looking closely at text will lead to stronger writing and an ability to communicate their newly found ideas, knowledge, or opinions. The determination of what type of close read depends on student need or what the text best reveals.

## Basic statements or questions of a close read includes:

- $\cdot$  Let's look closer at this section of the text. / Let's investigate this part further. /
- · According to the text, \_\_\_/ Let's use evidence from the text to .. /
- Let's see how the author... / Because we want learn how to write like the author \_\_\_\_\_
- $\cdot$  We need to look at this part of the text again in order to

| Purpose of Close Reading   | Suggested<br>Strategies   | Key Terms, Phrases or Questions  | Visual Tools or<br>Materials    |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Rich or Academic<br>Language<br>(figurative, tier 2<br>vocabulary)   | <ul> <li>Key Words</li> <li>Shades of Meaning</li> <li>Text Talk (Beck)</li> <li>Wrecking the Text</li> <li>Using context clues</li> <li>Think alouds about<br/>how you determine<br/>meaning.</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>What words are unfamiliar? Let's try to figure these words out.</li> <li>Give a student friendly definition during text talk (understanding words in context)</li> <li>What text around this word helps you understand its meaning?</li> </ul>  | Use of highlighter<br>Thesaurus |
| Linguistically<br>Complex<br>Language<br>(register, lack of background<br>knowledge,<br>cultural knowledge, multiple<br>levels of meaning, or meaning<br>is ambiguous) | •Deconstruction of<br>Text<br>•Specific use of<br>language in content<br>• Author's purpose<br>• rewriting text for<br>better understanding.  | <ul> <li>Why might this text be confusing? Let's take it apart to understand it.</li> <li>How did the author show you the person was a specific area/region?</li> <li>Let's read this text from the perspective of</li> <li>Let's talk about what this sentence might mean in the context of the paragraph/story.</li> </ul>   | Use of highlighter              |
| Plot Highlights  | <ul> <li>text depend. ques.</li> <li>Character motivation</li> <li>plot terms defined<br/>&amp; understood<br/>through context</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>What happened right here? Why is this important to the story?</li> <li>Why did do this? How does this change?</li> <li>What is the significance of this part of the story? What is its purpose?</li> <li>How does this part determine?</li> <li>Why would you label this section the (setting, rising/falling action, turning point, climax, conflict, foreshadowing, resolution, etc.) of the plot?</li> <li>Where does this section of the story "fit in" with the plot?</li> </ul> |                                 |

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| Text Features or<br>Illustrations  | <ul> <li>Preview/Review</li> <li>Look at the author's pulled quotes.</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Preview: What might this text be about?</li> <li>Review: How does this information add to your understanding about?</li> <li>Why did the author use a (graph, table, diagram, etc) in this section of the text?</li> <li>What is the purpose of this (text feature)?</li> <li>What does this (text feature) tell you or help you better understand?</li> <li>How does this illustration (determine the mood, the author's intent, an idea about)?</li> <li>Why did the illustrator depict like?</li> </ul> | • post-its to cover<br>text—revealing only<br>the text features for<br>prediction of what<br>text is about.        |
| <b>Big Idea or<br/>Theme Revealed</b>  | <ul> <li>Text dependent<br/>questions &amp; making<br/>connections/<br/>reflections based on<br/>text evidence</li> <li>Questioning with 6<br/>facets of understand-<br/>ing: explanations,<br/>applications,<br/>perspectives,<br/>interpretation,<br/>empathy,<br/>self-knowledge</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>How does this help answer?<br/>How can you relate this to?<br/>What more have you learned about<br/>after reading</li> <li>"6 facets of understanding" questions: <ul> <li>E: What is meant by?</li> <li>A: How doesapply to?</li> <li>P: How doeslook fromPOV?</li> <li>I: What does thesay/reveal about _?</li> <li>EM: How might it feel if?</li> <li>SK: What do you believe?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |  |
| Demanding<br>Content<br>(complex ideas or how it is<br>written –content specific,<br>unusual narration, dense<br>text with many tier 3 words-<br>academic vocabulary, etc) | <ul> <li>Content Specific<br/>Text Deconstruction<br/>(what the text is <i>doing</i>)</li> <li>Key Words</li> <li>Pulled Quotes</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Who, did what, to whom?</li> <li>Referrers, nominalizations, etc.</li> <li>What key terms or words do you need to know?</li> <li>Which words help you better understand the author's intent?</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>post-its for pulled<br/>quotes or key words</li> <li>Sentence patterns<br/>to deconstruct text</li> </ul> |

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|--|---|---|---|
| Character<br>Analysis or<br>Motivation   | <ul> <li>Analyze character's words, action, thoughts to reveal traits or emotions</li> <li>Inferential questioning about the character using evidence from text</li> </ul>  | • What did the character: do, say, think,<br>what others thought or did with?<br>What does this evidence tell you about<br>the character?<br>From this evidence, what can you infer<br>about the character?<br>What is the character's motivation and<br>why? Find evidence in the text.  | Concerner   |
| Author's Craft:<br>(Writing techniques<br>that deal with the au-<br>thor's perspectives,<br>mood, tone, word<br>choice, syntax,<br>purpose, etc.)  | <ul> <li>Questioning<br/>author's intent</li> <li>Wrecking the Text</li> <li>Reverse mapping as<br/>in WFTB</li> <li>"Owl Moon"<br/>Lesson in the writing<br/>binder (4-5)</li> <li>Other reverse map-<br/>ping lessons in 2nd<br/>and 3rd</li> </ul> | Perspective/s: From whose perspective<br>is the author speaking? Why did he<br>choose to do this here?<br>Mood: What is the mood in this section<br>of the story? How can you tell? What<br>did the author do to create this mood?<br>How do the illustrations add to this<br>mood?<br>Tone: What do you notice about the tone<br>of this text? How is it different than?<br>Why did the author choose to use?<br>Word Choice: What do you notice about<br>the word/s in this section of the text?<br>How are they alike/different? Why did<br>the author use these type of words? How<br>does this add to the reading of the text<br><i>How can you use these techniques in</i><br><i>your own writing</i> ? | • WFTB planners for<br>reverse mapping  |
| <b>Text Organization</b><br>or Structure<br>(Genre bends or changes<br>in literature's structure.<br>Structure of text is<br>through a skill: cause/<br>effect, compare/contrast<br>in science & historical<br>text) | <ul> <li>Chunking the text:<br/>Author's purpose of<br/>different sections of<br/>the text/story</li> <li>Extracting Text into<br/>a Thinking Map</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>How is this part/section of the story organized? How is it different from?</li> <li>How does the story's organization change (distorted time or sequence, flash back, shifting perspectives, purpose, etc.)?</li> </ul>  | Thinking maps are<br>determined by the<br>structure of the text,<br>or bend in the genre) |