

Types of Close Reading

Reader's Response

As you read, you automatically have responses to what you are reading. These responses may be questions, thoughts about how you would feel or reminders of something similar happening to you in the past. When you have one of these responses, write it in the margin of the text. This causes you "to think" about what you are reading, which in turn, will help with your understanding.

Annotating Text

This approach is similar to Reader's Response, except you should be looking for more specific items rather than just your thoughts. When annotating, keep in mind the following: diction, imagery, details, syntax, tone, and structure of the piece. Highlight or underline these in the text and make notations of their importance in the margin. After you have annotated, you will find it is easier to answer questions asked by the teacher, and to write an analysis of the meaning and author's style of the piece of literature.

Self-questioning

After reading the piece of literature, it can be helpful to design questions with different levels of comprehension. You should ask factual questions that are easily answered by simply going back and finding the answer in the text. Next, ask interpretive questions that require a little more thought, questions about meaning, character motivation, or of literary content (symbolism, irony, diction, etc.) Finally, ask questions that relate the story to the experiences of life today, such as making a connection in meaning or conflicts.

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