

Close Reading

9th Grade

Four passes over a text, each looking for something different.

Close reading means reading slowly and repeatedly, with a specific purpose each time.

FIRST PASS — WHAT

1

What literally happens? Get the sense before anything else.

SECOND PASS — HOW

2

Language, structure, imagery. Annotate specific choices.

THIRD PASS — WHY

3

What is the effect of those choices on the reader?

FOURTH PASS — SO WHAT

4

How does this connect to the whole text and its themes?

Annotation without a question is decoration. Decide what you are looking for before you pick up the pen.