**HOW TO DO A CLOSE READING ~a student guide**

The skill called "close reading" is fundamental for interpreting literature. "Reading closely" means developing a deep understanding and a precise interpretation of a literary passage that is based first and foremost on the words themselves. But a close reading does not stop there; rather, it embraces larger themes and ideas evoked and/or implied by the passage itself. Doing a close reading involves a thought process that moves from small details to larger issues. Remember: you are reading for meaning and understanding.

***Step-by-Step Instructions:***

**On a separate sheet of paper**, complete all **8 Tasks** below to perform your own close reading.

**Task 1:** To begin, read your passage slowly and circle any vocabulary you are unfamiliar with. Next, look up the definitions and write them down. (Yes! Go actually look these words up in the dictionary. *Laziness in this step will inevitably result in diminished comprehension*!) Double check that the definition makes sense in the context of the text.

**Task 2:** Language Choice - underline any language that attracts your attention for any reason. Why do you find it interesting? Jot down your reasons.

**Task 3:** Verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Highlight in different colors the ones you find in the passage. What do you notice? Are there any patterns? Comment on your findings.

**Task 4:** Predictions - what might happen next? Why? Write your predictions down then explain your reasoning beside/underneath each prediction.

**Task 5:** Opinions and reflections - write what you think of the story, narrators, and characters.

**Task 6:** Connections - does the text remind you about your own experiences? Or other books and films? What are the similarities? (Be sure to answer each question.)

**Task 7:** Questions - write them down, and remember there is no such thing as a stupid question. Try to list more open questions than closed questions.

**Task 8:** What key themes from the novel do you think are reflected in the passage? Write them down (try to think of more than one).

Did you notice all the action verbs underlined above in each Task? I want you to realize all the things you can do to truly understand a text besides just looking at it. Eventually, this close reading skill will become second nature for you, but until it does, we will use this guide to help you throughout the school year as needed.

**Need additional help?? View this student guide in *ACTION* online!**

The following **ONLINE Tutorial** will walk you through all 8 Tasks, complete with visual examples and detailed explanations for every Task:

[**https://snapguide.com/guides/do-a-close-reading/**](https://snapguide.com/guides/do-a-close-reading/)