Ways of Reading:
A Toolkit for Close Reading of Literary Texts

	Audience	Rhetorical Strategy	Organizational Structure	Pronoun Use	Narration
Rhetorical Features	Who is being addressed? What assumptions does the text make about the reader?	Does the text position itself through the authority of the author (ethos), an intended emotional response (pathos), or with a logical argument (logos)?	What are the important organizational features? How does the text introduce and conclude itself?	What pronouns are used? How do these gesture toward the author or the reader?	What characterizes the narrative voice? Is it written the first or third person? Retrospective or in the present?
	Diction (Word-Choice)	**Connotation / Denotation**	**Repetitions**	**Similarities**	**Contradictions or Binarries**
Textual Features	Why were these specific words were selected and not others?	What the implications or assumptions of the connotative meaning of specific words?	What words, phrases, or images, repeat?	Are there similarities of words or phrases within the text? What are the meaning differences of these similarities?	What oppositional pairings of words or phrases do you see in the text?
	Genre	**Metaphors**	**Allusions**	**Figurative Tropes**	**Rhythm**
Literary Features	Can you identify the genre of the text? Does it participate in multiple genres?	Do you see a juxtaposition of two independent ideas or objects used to show similarities between both?	Are there possible references to other texts, people, stories, or myths not explicitly represented within the text?	Are there examples of metonymy, synecdoche, irony, alliteration, litotes, hyperbole, or personification?	Does the text produce any sort of rhythm through the repetition of the same or similar sounds?