**Close-Reading**

**First Steps:**

1. Read the selection once to familiarize yourself with the text.
2. Grab a pen or pencil.
3. Read through a second time, engaging with the text. Circle or underline words and phrases that stand out, or that appear to have deeper meaning. Recognize figurative language. Write in the margins to reflect your thoughts.
4. Write these thoughts out as a series of insights into the subtext of the piece.

**Things to look for:**

1. PoV – what is the point of view of the selection:

* First person, Second person, Third person (limited, omniscient, limited omnisicient), reliable/unreliable narrator

1. Narrative Tone:

* Formal/Informal, happy/sad, pessimistic/optimistic, serious/humorous, ironic, satiric, sentimental, unemotional

1. Repetition/Patterns (Themes):

* Repeated phrases/words (often associated with symbolism or motifs)
* Ideas, descriptions, emotions, weather, place, events/actions

1. Figures of Speech:

* Symbol, metaphor, simile, alliteration, hyperbole, understatement, personification, onomatopoeia, allusion, parable, pun, etc.

1. Conflict:

* Person vs. Self
* Person vs. Person
* Person vs. Environment (government, philosophy, religion, group)

1. Page Design:

* Is there a lot of white space? A lot of text? Short or long sentences? Dialogue vs. description? Are there unusual fonts, type size, italics, bold?

Anything else that stands out? Sometimes you’ll sense that something has a deeper meaning, but not be able to put a name to it. This is fine – it’s good to investigate all parts of a text that seem to hold more information.