

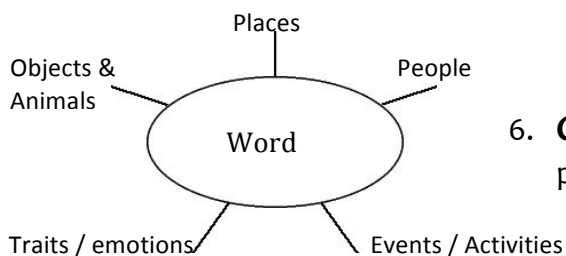


Steps to Close Reading

Understanding a poem or passage in literature requires **multiple readings** and close study to discover the many layers of meaning. It's like looking at the text through a magnifying glass the same way a detective does in search of small clues for meaning. Here are the steps you take.

1. **Context** (if the passage is part of a longer text)
 - Identify the speaker, setting & situation (what has just occurred). This requires reading several pages before the scene begins.
2. **Box names** and references to people and **label** who they are and what is known about them especially **the speaker**. This includes pronouns like I, we, they, him/her, us, them, etc.
3. **Definitions**: circle and write down the definitions of at least 2 words you don't know **or** words that are interesting and seem important.
4. **Summary**: Write a one-sentence summary that captures the overall meaning about what is happening in the passage/ poem.
5. **Identify & EXPLAIN three Stylistic Devices**
 *Makes sure you draw a line to the specific part of the text you are talking about

See G9



6. **Connotations**: Choose 3 key words in the text and brainstorm people, objects, places, etc.

See back

7. **Tone**:

- What is the speaker or author's attitude about the topic(s) he/she is writing about?
- Note where any shifts or changes in the tone occur.

See G2

8. **Topics**: name 3 major topics the text is MOSTLY about (ex: friendship, education, injustice, etc.).

9. **Theme** – What message is being suggested about people and life outside the text?
 Example: ***TIP**: Look for a connection between two or more of the topics you identified above
 - **Cruelty** can often have a tremendous effect on **identity**, causing those affected by it to become cruel themselves.