**CLOSE READING**

Close Reading is a focused and serious reading of text in order to gain a deeper understanding of a passage/article/poem. Close reading helps you understand important text evidence needed to answer comprehension questions.

Close Reading takes time and involves several steps. You will begin to memorize the steps.

Step 1: Cold Read: Read the entire passage through once to get the gist or general idea of the article.

Step 2: Paraphrase: Look at smaller chunks of the passage that may be confusing and sum them up in your own words in the margins. You may end up summarizing up a sentence or two in each paragraph.

Step 3: Look for patterns. Is there an idea that keeps repeating?Come up with a code system to help you point out the patterns.

Step 4: Make connections between the patterns you discover. Are you discovering a theme that weaves throughout the text?

Step 5: Identify parts of the passage that STAND OUT. This may be appealing language, a fabulous description, or other interesting details. You may wish to underline these parts twice.

Step 6: What stumps you? You will not understand everything in the passage. Indicate the parts that stump you by asking BIG QUESTIONS in the margins. You may leave them unanswered for now.

Step 7: Work with new words (unfamiliar vocabulary). Attempt to figure out their meanings by

* Using what you do understand to make an educated guess
* Looking at parts of the word
* Seeing how it is used in the sentence

Step 8: **Closely read again**, line by line, trying to make connections between previous notes. Try to understand why the author chose the words. Note the **mood** and the **theme**.

Step 9: Examine the title. How does it connect to the passage? What other title might have chosen?

Step 10: Return to the BIG QUESTIONS and attempt to answer them even if it is a guess.

Step 11: HOT READ – Now that you’ve analyzed the passage, what is your new understanding or “gist” of the article? Did it change? Improve?

Step 12: Personal Connection: What importance does this passage or article have to my life or to those around me?