

## **Close Reading**

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Close Reading is a strategy that involves structured multiple readings that result in progressively deeper comprehension of text. Students focus on different details and patterns for each reading, and are directed toward focused activities between readings. It is a framework in which various disciplinary literacy strategies can be inserted as part of a coherent, unfolding lesson. Close Reading is a key requirement of the Common Core State Standards.

### **How to implement the strategy:**

1. The teacher selects a short piece of text that is related to the unit of study that can be divided into four or five sections. Each section may be 1-3 paragraphs long.
2. Students are directed to purposefully read the first section of the text.
  - a. The reading may be done through individual silent reading, partner reading, modeled reading, or round robin reading, at the discretion of the teacher depending on students and text.
  - b. The first reading is to get a general understanding of the text.
3. After the reading, students reflect on the text based on the purpose. The reflections may include writing, student-to-student dialogue, or other strategies.
4. After the first reading, students re-read the same section with a deeper purpose and a different reading strategy from the first reading. For example, teachers may have students individually (silent) read during the first reading and use partner-read during the second reading. Additionally, the purpose of the first reading may be to identify key words or phrases, while the purpose of the second reading may be to write the meaning of a word or phrase in their own words.
5. The third reading involves another approach to reading the first section and a more targeted purpose. After the third reading, the teacher employs another strategy for students to reflect on the reading.
6. After students purposefully read and reflect on the first section three times, they move to the next section of text to be read three times.

### **Additional resources:**

- Boyles, N. (2012). Close in on close reading. *Educational Leadership*, 70(4).  
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec12/vol70/num04/Closing-in-on-Close-Reading.aspx>
- Burke, B. (2012). A close look at close reading: Scaffolding students with complex texts. Anne Arundel County Reading Mini Conference.  
[http://www.robbinsville.k12.nj.us/cms/lib07/NJ01000044/Centricity/Domain/296/Close\\_Reading\\_Packet.pdf](http://www.robbinsville.k12.nj.us/cms/lib07/NJ01000044/Centricity/Domain/296/Close_Reading_Packet.pdf)
- Shanahan, T. (2012). What is close reading?  
<http://www.shanahanonliteracy.com/2012/06/what-is-close-reading.html>