

Close Reading Method

AP Literature

Mr. Cano

1. In the space at the top of the passage (or on the back), clearly answer the following: What is happening at this point in the text? (Provide the context. Make sure to include the 5 W's [**who, what, where, when, why**].)
2. In **pink**, highlight meaningful diction (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) in the passage. Comment marginally on at least **FIVE** of these highlighted words, considering: (1) What connotations do you glean from specific word choices? (2) What conflicts or connections (similarities) do you understand through specific word choices? (3) What significance (regarding character, event, etc.) you understand through specific word choice? [Hint: Consult your Yellow Pages. In general, marginal comments will take the form of a phrase such as: “conveys _____”, “shows _____”, “suggests _____”, “fitting because _____”, or “significant because _____.”]
3. In **yellow**, highlight the first four words of each sentence and meaningful punctuation choices (dashes, parentheses, ellipses, etc.). Comment marginally on **ONE** aspect of the syntax that seems meaningful to you. [Hint: see Yellow Pages]
4. In **green**, highlight evidence of at least **FIVE** literary and/or poetic devices (see list below). Label the strategy or device marginally and comment marginally on its effect. [See hint in #2.]
5. In **blue**, draw brackets around **TWO** 5-10 line blocks of text within the passage; for each, choose an appropriate tone word from your Yellow Pages. Be as precise as possible in choosing tone words. In the space at the bottom of you passage copy, or on a separate sheet of paper, briefly justify these two tone words. [When commenting on tone, it is best to us quotations from the passage for support].
6. Finally, determine where the passage could logically break into sections, based on tone and content. Elaborate on the tone and content of each section to justify the sections.

For use with step #4 above

Some literary and poetic devices: (words in bold represent figurative language)

- Alliteration, consonance, or assonance
- Allusion
- **Analogy**
- Apostrophe
- Antithesis
- Asyndeton or polysyndeton
- Couplet
- Euphony or cacophony
- Humor or wit
- **Hyperbole or understatement**
- Imagery
- Irony
- Language style (colloquial, informal, jargon, etc.)
- Litotes
- **Metaphor, conceit, or extended metaphor**
- **Metonymy**
- Onomatopoeia
- Oxymoron
- Paradox
- Parallelism
- Personification
- Repetition
- Reversal (chiasmus or antimetabole)
- Rhetorical question
- Rhetorical shift
- Rhythm
- Sentence length or type (rhythm, pacing)
- **Simile or extended simile**
- **Synecdoche**
- Verb tense