

Close Reading Checklist

First Reading

- I've highlighted/underlined parts that "jumped out"
- I've marked parts I didn't understand

Second Reading

- I've looked up all words I don't understand, or that seem to be used in a different way than I'm familiar with
- I've noted the tone and found an [accurate word](#) to describe it
- I've noted if the tone changes
- I've considered the speaker, audience, subject and deduced purpose (Rhetorical Triangle)

Third-Infinity Readings

- I've searched for any and all literary devices
- I've considered the order of words (syntax) and how they affect meaning
- I've considered how the narrative structure affects meaning
- I've considered how the context affects meaning

Writing

- The first sentence clearly states PURPOSE and METHOD. It follows a structure similar to "(Author) uses(literary device) to achieve (purpose)".
 - *Eg. DFW uses footnotes to prevent his audience from becoming passive and to constantly remind them that they must engage with the text, even physically.*
- It directly quotes from the text. Each quote is followed by **at least two sentences** explaining HOW that [device](#) functions and relates to the purpose.
 - *Eg. The simile in this passage is meant to force Connie to question her previously held assumptions about what a "movie hero" is. It also forces the reader to question whose view of the hero, Connie's or Arnold's, is being used. If the reader decides Connie's, she becomes more naive and innocent, and increasingly a victim of her own youth. But if Arnold's, then Connie is someone still able to discern for herself what a "movie hero" is, someone not yet taken in by Arnold's supposed charms.*
- Writing is well organized, uses sophisticated language and is free of grammar and spelling errors.