Text Notes

Any time we meet a written text we will have a three level approach to our reading. We will actually talk about these as level one, level two, and level three. When you read a text, I will ask you to write down notes for each of the three levels of reading.

Please be sure your reading notes are legible. Use a numbering system to show the different levels.

At the top, "log in"--- list the title of the text, the author, the type of text it is, (story, poem, etc.), and the full pages of the text. Remember to always put your name at the top of each page.

1. What does the text say? (Restating what a text SAYS)
In this paragraph or bullet outline you will simply report what actually happens or what information is related in the text. Think: key details and order of events. If the text is a short story or play, you will list all the characters in the story and briefly describe the plot line. If the text is a poem then briefly describe what the lines of poetry say. Think of this level of reading as a way to show that you actually did the reading.

2. How does this text work? (Describing what a text DOES)

A. Consider how the writer accomplishes his goals. What genre is the text and can you discern the author's purpose (entertain, explain, inform, persuade?) What is the structure of the piece? What is the point of view?
B. What vocabulary or rhetorical devices are used in the text? You will want to think about what literary techniques are used by the author to achieve his or her purpose. You can always refer in your textbook to the information that follows the text for hints.

3. Why does this text matter? How does it relate to me and to the world? (Analyzing what a text MEANS)

A. In this paragraph or bullet outline you will consider major themes and messages of the text. What point do you think the author is trying to make? It is a good idea to always look for at least three themes or messages in each text.
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B. In this paragraph or bullet outline you will consider the ways this text relates to other things you have read or viewed. Start with the texts that are a part of the current unit in your literature text. Remember to consider movies and TV shows you have seen.

C. In this paragraph or bullet outline you will consider the ways you can relate to this text on a personal level. This is the most important level of reading for your learning and so you want to give good energies to this level of reading. Consider ways that you have been in a similar situation or felt similar emotions as those expressed by the author. You can agree or disagree with a position the author is taking. The hard work of reading is to find some way to relate to every text we meet.