

Close Reading Symbols



Highlight important words



Underline the main idea



Label supporting details



Identify something you have
a question about



Circle unknown words



Star interesting information

Close Reading

"Close reading" helps students extract meaning from text by carefully examining how language is used in a passage. This strategy pairs well with other reading instructional methods, and is most effective when students examine the text multiple times.

It is important to teach and model the process and then build to more independent use of close reading with small groups and partners.

Steps for implementation:

1. Set the purpose for reading. For example, are you looking for the main idea or the author's purpose?
2. Have students number paragraphs for easy citation of text.
 - a. Pre-reading strategy: Stop for discussion afterward about context clues, just as headings or images within the text.
3. Read with the class, audio or teacher read.
 - a. Students can circle unknown words or put question marks beside confusing sections.
4. Re-read with students while using close reading symbols, highlighting important words, starring interesting information, and underlining the main idea.
5. The final read-through is when students can begin to make connections and discuss their observations of main ideas and supporting details.

Resources:

What Close Reading Actually Means by Grant Wiggins:
[teachthought.com/literacy/what-close-reading-actually-means/](https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/what-close-reading-actually-means/)

PD: Close Reading Literary Texts by ReadWriteThink.org
<https://www.readwritethink.org/professional-development/strategy-guides/close-reading-literary-texts>