Close Reading in the Upper Elementary and Middle School Classroom

Close reading is an amazing strategy to help your students build their reading stamina! It is something that can be implemented across the curriculum, and a tool that I saw help my students to become better readers and better test takers.

Check out My Blog post that goes into detail about how to implement close reading in your classroom tomorrow!

The next few pages have handouts for students to reference when the class is starting their close reading journey. I prefer to have students tape them into their interactive student notebooks (check out my Teacher Resources for help with ISNs) which is why I have two per page, students can cut and tape them into their ISNs.

When starting close reading, I highly suggest modeling while thinking aloud, speak everything you are thinking and annotating within your the piece you are reading. I know you can do this, and I hope this resource helps.

Happy teaching!

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Close Reading Process

★ **1st Read:** *Read Aloud*

- Someone reads the excerpt, poem, word problem, article etc. aloud to you.
- You silently follow along (NO annotating)

★ **2nd Read:** *Silent Read*

- Independently silently read the article.
- Annotate!

★ **3rd Read:** *Pair Read*

- Take turns reading aloud with your partner.
- Stop after each paragraph to discuss any annotations made.
  - "Did you find any interesting facts in that paragraph?"
  - "I found a word I was confused about, do you know what it means?"
  - "What do you think the author was saying in that paragraph, she seemed to go back and forth, it was a bit confusing."
  - "This is really making me want to know more, do you know anything about this topic?"

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Annotations and CLOSE READING

- ★ What is an annotation?
  - A mark or symbol that reflects what you are thinking regarding the text.
  - This can include highlighting or written notes
- ★ Why are annotations so important?
  - They help to express your train of thought and thought process.
  - Annotations help you to think at high levels–to think off the page.
- ★ What annotations should we use, and when should we use them?
  - Use annotations whenever you are reading!
  - No matter the length or subject, using annotations will help with your comprehension of any text.
    - Novels
    - Non-Fiction
    - Poetry
    - Math Word Problems
    - Directions

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BOX	Draw a box around information needed to solve a specific problem or answer a specific question.

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