**Close Reading: *Interrogation of Text***

(A bit of background: Close reading is not new to the Common Core State Standards. It is a concept that was initiated in the 1940s as a format for deep analysis of poetry.)

Use short passages or a portion of a reading selection (at a level of complexity appropriate for the target grade) for close and repeated rereadings. The purpose is learning to engage in deep analysis, viewing the text through a different lens with each rereading.

Readers should expect to read with notepaper in hand or to highlight and apply electronic “stickies” as they read.

The goal is to stretch reader analysis as texts are analyzed and specific *evidence from the text* is used to support thinking.

CCSS recommends three close readings a week.

**The Process:**

Students read the passage once on their own, with no frontloading from the teacher. They make notes as they read, then talk with a partner about their observations, challenges and so on.

The teacher reads the short passage aloud and makes specific observations about the text.

Students then read again, marking points in the passage they think are significant and considering questions posed by the teacher. Each rereading is followed by partner talk.

After multiple rereads, each of which emphasizes the use of textual evidence, learners write.

**Levels of Questioning:**

Identify main ideas, and important details.

Notice shades of meaning in the vocabulary: *How does the author’s use of “amble” versus “walk” affect the mental image you create?*  *What does the author do to help you understand what \_\_\_\_ means?*

Look for figurative language. Mark it and consider its impact on the selection.

Notice the text structure and organization. How does it support meaning? How is it like or different from other structures you have read?

Consider the author’s purpose and the techniques used to ensure the purpose is met. How does the author make his or her opinions clear in the selection?

Compare/contrast this selection with \_\_\_\_\_.

What inferences can you draw?

What is your opinion about this selection? Support your thinking with evidence from the text.