



Close Reading Workshop

In this workshop you will learn an approach to reading that will deepen your understanding of literature and will help you better appreciate the author's craft. The workshop includes models for the close reading, discussion, research, and writing activities you will complete as you study literature in this unit. After you have reviewed the strategies and models, practice your skills with the Independent Practice selection.



**RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.2,
RL.9-10.3, RL.9-10.4,
RL.9-10.5, SL.9-10.1,
SL.9-10.4, W.9-10.8,
W.9-10.9, W.9-10.10**

[For full standards wording, see the standards chart in the front of this textbook.]

1 CLOSE READING: SHORT STORY

In Part 2 of this unit you will focus on reading various short stories. Use these strategies as you read the texts.

Comprehension: Key Ideas and Details

- Read first to unlock basic meaning.
- Use context clues to help you determine the meanings of unfamiliar words. Consult a dictionary, if necessary.
- Identify unfamiliar details that you might need to clarify through research.
- Distinguish between what is stated directly and what must be inferred.

Ask yourself questions such as these:

- Who are the main characters?
- When and where does the action take place?
- What problems do the characters face?

Text Analysis: Craft and Structure

- Think about the genre of the work and how the author presents ideas.
- Analyze the features that contribute to the author's voice and style. Notice the author's diction (word choice), syntax (arrangement of words in sentences), and tone (attitude toward the audience and subject).
- Take note of how the author uses language and literary elements to create memorable scenes or images.
- Consider the story's narrative structure, including flashbacks, foreshadowing, or multiple points of view.

Ask yourself questions such as these:

- How does the narrator's point of view affect my understanding of and feelings about the story?
- Why do the characters behave as they do? How do their actions advance the plot?
- What is the central conflict, or struggle, that characters face?

Connections: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Look for relationships among key ideas. Identify causes and effects, and comparisons and contrasts.
- Look for important images or symbols and consider their deeper meanings. Then, connect ideas to determine the theme or central insight expressed by the author.
- Compare and contrast this work with other works you have read, either by the same author or different authors.

Ask yourself questions such as these:

- How has this work increased my knowledge of a subject, author, or literary movement?
- In what ways is this story special, unique, or worthy of reading?