

CLOSE READING



Why Do we Read ?

- To get information
- To get ideas
- To get motivated
- For delight/ Pleasure

Affective Power of Language

- While you read a text, the author is able to evoke certain feelings in you such sad, happy, angry etc.
- How does the author do that?
- Through purposeful manipulation of the language the author is able to influence the reader

“തെരുവിൽ കാക്ക കൊത്തുന്നു
ചത്ത പെണ്ണിന്റെ കണ്ണുകൾ
മൂല ചപ്പി വലിക്കുന്നു
നരവർഗ്ഗ നവാതിഥി”

“കുന്നുമ്മേന്നുണ്ടൊരു ചൂട്ടുവാണുനു
കുഞ്ഞബ്ബൂൻറച്ഛനോ പിന്നാരാനോ” ?

What is Close Reading?

- **Close reading is a critical analysis of a text in order to identify the affective content of the text and to analyze how the author deploys the emotive power of language to communicate emotions as well as ideas**

CLOSE READING:

1. WHAT THE TEXT SAYS

2. HOW THE TEXT SAYS IT

3. WHAT THE TEXT MEANS

Step 1: Read the passage.



- Take notes as you read. Mark anything that seems relevant or interesting to you
- Ask yourself: HOW is language and/or argument being used?
- Take notes about your observations of the passage
- Pay attention to how language use changes over the course of your passage.
- For example, if the same word appears at the beginning and end, does it mean different things in both places? Does the author's tone or attitude change?

Step 2: Analyze the passage.



Diction:

- What words are being used here?
- Are any words repeated in this passage?
- What adjectives are used?
- Are any two (or more) words used in this passage connected in some way?

Narrative Voice:



- Who is speaking in this passage?
- What narrative perspective is being used in this passage?
- What does the narrative voice tell you?
- What characters does it give you access to?

Tone



- Is the speaker being straightforward, factual, open?
- Is he or she taking a less direct route toward his or her meaning?
- Does the voice carry any emotion? Or is it detached from its subject?
- Do you hear irony (what is said is different from what is meant)? If so, where?

Rhetorical and Literary devices



- Do you notice any figurative language, such as metaphors and similes?
- Do you observe any imagery?
- Is the sound of the language and sentences important (e.g., rhyme, repetition, choppy or long sentences)?
- What is the effect of these devices and techniques? (e.g., do they add emphasis or connect key ideas?)

Step 3: Develop a descriptive thesis.



- Once you have finished looking at the language in detail, you can use your observations to construct a descriptive thesis.
- For example, you could argue that a passage is using short, simple sentences, or that it is using irony or a combination of these things.
- Your descriptive thesis should attempt to summarize the observations you have made about HOW language is being used in your passage.

Step 4: Construct an argument about the passage.



- What kinds of words are used (intellectual, elaborate, plain, or vulgar)? Why are words being used in this way?
- Why are sentences long or short? Why might the author be using complicated or simple sentences? What might this type of sentence structure suggest about what the passage is trying to convey?
- Who is the narrator? What is the narrative voice providing these particular descriptions? Why are we given access to the consciousness of these particular characters? Why not others?
- What images do you see in the passage? What might they represent? Is there a common theme?
- Why might the tone of the passage be emotional (or detached)?
- To what purpose might the text employ irony?
- What effect/impact is the author trying to create?

Step 5: Develop an outline based on your thesis



- After you have established your thesis, you'll need to write an essay that supports this argument with examples and analysis.

Letter to '2020' - Group 1.

- Dear 2020,

I have seen me thriving through all the mountains and valleys that 2019 gave. I have seen me failing at times and growing up from there. I have swam a pool of emotional trauma. Yet, I am here, through the process of wilting and blooming again. And now stepping into a new year, I am carrying all the fragments of love, better hope and failures of ancestor years ,as my companion of this new journey. I am carrying the fragments of the past, which I am reluctant to leave alone in the history. 2020, I need you to know that whatever comes out of me - good or bad, is the shattered pieces of me evolving into a person. It's me trying to detach the parts of other people which I have been carrying all these years. 2020, know that I ain't afraid of falling, instead I am in an urge to grow as a person in whole. Pluck me up at times, so I can wilt and later grow back and bloom, unfill the pond, so I can fight for a breath ,scratch off my paint, so I can repaint.

With hope,
Poornima.

Questions



- What kind of narrative is used ?
- What is the tone? What are the emotions expressed?
- Which are the figures of speech used?
- What effect will this writing have on the reader?
- What is the recurring image?
- What are the images used to describe the persona?
- How is 2020 portrayed?

I am a



- Traveler
- Student
- Swimmer
- Plant
- Fish
- Painting
- Flowery Plant

Life is



- Journey
- Exam
- Swimming pool
- Growing Plant
- Evolution
- Collection
- Race
- Growth
- Fish in a Pool
- A Wall Painting

How to write a Commentary



- The commentary should be in running sentences and is usually written in the present tense
- Annotate the select words or phrases by putting them within inverted commas and explain how those elements add up to the objectives of the piece of writing
- Avoid long quotations. Try to select the key words or phrases. Long quotations can affect the focus. In case a whole sentence is found to be useful, refer to the sentence and write the appropriate words/ phrases from it

How to Write a Commentary



- Avoid any introduction or conclusion to the commentary that is longer than a sentence
- Avoid expressions such as “the writer uses words and phrases”, “writer effect”, “writer tries” etc. as they are repetitive.
- Avoid attempts to discover only the figures of speech
- Avoid very subjective references such as “I think”, “In my opinion”, etc. Instead use verbs such as: “the writer says”, refers to, suggests, evokes, calls to mind, brings to mind, observes, mentions, hints at, talks about, points out, indicates, alludes, remarks etc.

COLLEGE ANTHEM

Stopping by the shimmering shores of Time
Musing on the timeless truths sublime
Seekers sight a gleam on flaming wings
'Sacred Heart', their soul enchanted sings:

Blest are we on this bracing shore
Blissfully gleaning pearls of lore
Pilgrims on these pastures green
Seek in joy hinter lands unseen

Sacred Hearts, Abode of Light
Shine on bright, abide in hearts
Sacred Heart, Shrine of Light
Shower your beams, make us one at heart

Righteous heart ever seeks aright
Rarer joys of wisdom pure n'right
Smile of thy face soothe our sail
a-Cross high seas in thunder 'n hail

As thee blaze in glory's trail
We too swell in thy gallant sail
Days in thy shade, help us unveil
Skies of the soul where freedom prevail (Sacred Heart.)

Children of the Hearts – we – join our hands
To love, to learn, to grow together
Children of the Hearts –we- join our souls

To dare, to dream, to live for the other (Sacred Heart...
Master benign, Anchor divine
Hallowed be thy home amain
Grant us to bless, grant us love
All that proclaim thy grandeur n' love (Sacred Heart...)