**Close Reading**

Close reading should imply that we bring the text and reader CLOSE together. To ignore either element in the transaction, to deny the presence of the reader or neglect the contribution of the text, is to make reading impossible. If we understand close reading this way, when the reader is brought into the text we have the opportunity for relevance, engagement, and rigor.

Close reading should suggest close attention to the text; close attention to the relevant experience, thought, and memory of the reader; close attention to the responses and interpretations of other readers; and close attention to the interactions among those elements.

**Characteristics of Close Reading:**

1. It works with a short passage
2. The focus is intense
3. It will extend from the passage itself to other parts of the text
4. It should involve a great deal of exploratory discussion
5. It involves rereading

*Some frogs seek out their food. A toad hops around after dark, snapping up moths, beetles, and crickets. It may eat more than 5,000 insects during a single summer. Other frogs ambush their prey. A horned frog hides among leaves on the rain forest floor in South America. It stays absolutely still, day after day. When an animal comes by, the frog watches attentively, waiting until it moves closer. Then it seizes the prey with a loud snap of its huge mouth. The horned frog is not a fussy eater. It gulps down cockroaches, lizards, mice, and even other horned frogs*. ---*Frogs*, Bishop, 2008

--Adapted from *Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading* and *Close Reading of Informational Texts*