**Close Reading and Annotation**

Pre-read the text; develop an understanding of the meaning of the text.

* As you read, write your first impressions in the margins and/or on a separate sheet of paper. Include your dislikes and likes, any questions that arise, points that you find difficult to understand and the reasons why, as well as any revelations or reflections.
* Look for patterns and repetitions (motifs), and recurring elements of the text including images, phrases, and situations. Ask yourself why the author may have used these repetitions. Do they affect you as the reader? Do you derive meaning from them?
* Identify any passages that strike you as highly significant and explain why. How does the passage contribute to the overall meaning of the literature? How does the passage contribute to the development of a character or concept?
* Think about how elements of this text can relate to other texts that you have read.
* Read the text in context – consider the time period in which it was written. How does the author reveal these contextual elements in the literature? Does the author reveal a particular position on an issue? How does the author accomplish this?
* Think about the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the passage.

**Annotating**

- is essential for close and critical reading of texts in preparation for writing assignments, analyses, research and text/exam responses. Annotating helps you dissect difficult texts and discern meaning from them.

* + Circle phrases you find brief and to the point, represent repetitive themes or images (motifs), and/or reveal figurative language
  + Circle words you need to define in the margin
  + Underline sentences that stand out, develop an argument, or make a point
  + Number related points
  + Bracket important sections of the text
  + Connect important ideas, words or phrases with arrows

In the margins:

* + Define the unfamiliar terms or words that you circled
  + Summarize and number each paragraph
  + Note any significant patterns or motifs
  + Identify any outstanding language usage or writing strategies
  + Identify points or arguments