



Figure 5.2

## Close Reading Questions Aligned to Common Core's College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

Standard	Potential Questions for Literary Text	Potential Questions for Informational Text
<p><b>1. Finding evidence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What clues to meaning do you find on the cover (illustration, title, information about the author) that prepare you to read this story? Who is the narrator?</li> <li>• What does the author mean by ___?</li> <li>• Identify the characters, setting, problem, outcome.</li> <li>• What do you think are the most important details in this part of the text? Why?</li> <li>• What do you know about the character(s)/ problem/setting from this part of the text?</li> <li>• What do you know about the character(s)/ problem/setting that you didn't know before?</li> <li>• What did the author want us to know here? How do you know?</li> <li>• What is the first thing that jumps out at you? Why?</li> <li>• What is the next thing that jumps out at you? Why?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of clues to meaning do you find on the cover (illustration, title, information about the author) that prepare you to read this text? What does the author mean by ___?</li> <li>• Who is providing this information?</li> <li>• Identify the topic and main points.</li> <li>• What facts/details really stand out to you? Why?</li> <li>• What do you know about this person/ situation/place from this part of the text?</li> <li>• What do you know about this person/ situation/place that you didn't know before?</li> <li>• What did the author want you to know here? How do you know?</li> <li>• What is the first thing that jumps out at you? Why?</li> <li>• What is the next thing that jumps out at you? Why?</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Theme, main idea, summary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain what is happening here in your own words (paraphrase).</li> <li>• What is this story starting to be about?</li> <li>• What is the author's message?</li> <li>• What is the big idea?</li> <li>• What lesson does ___ learn?</li> <li>• What is the author's message, and how does the author show this throughout the story?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain what the author is saying in your own words (paraphrase).</li> <li>• What is this [article] starting to be about?</li> <li>• What did you learn in this part of the text?</li> <li>• What is the main idea?</li> <li>• What is the main idea, and how does the author show this in the text?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Story parts, facts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the setting (time and place) make a difference to the story?</li> <li>• How does [character] change throughout the story?</li> <li>• What character trait/feeling is present here?</li> <li>• Why does the author choose these particular details to include?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does [person] contribute to this situation/problem (or the solution of the problem)?</li> <li>• How does one event/step lead to the next (cause/effect)?</li> <li>• What are the most important facts/details?</li> <li>• Why does the author choose these particular details to include?</li> </ul>

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4. Vocabulary/ words*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What tone or mood does the author create? What words contribute to that tone?</li> <li>• What does this word mean based on other words in the sentence?</li> <li>• What is the meaning of this simile/ personification/idiom/metaphor, and why did the author choose it?</li> <li>• What are the most important words to talk about this text?</li> <li>• What words paint a picture in your mind?</li> <li>• What word did the author choose to add meaning? How do these choices display craft?*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did the author choose this word?</li> <li>• What tone or mood does the author create? What words contribute to that tone?</li> <li>• What does this word mean based on other words in the sentence?</li> <li>• What is the meaning of this simile/ personification/idiom/metaphor, and why did the author choose it?</li> <li>• What are the most important words to talk about this text?</li> <li>• What words paint a picture in your mind?</li> <li>• What word did the author choose to add meaning? How do these choices display craft?*</li> </ul>
5. Structure, genre, syntax*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this text "look" on the page (stanzas, illustration, etc.)? How will this support your reading?</li> <li>• What is the structure of this story (or part of the story)?</li> <li>• What is the genre? What genre characteristics do you find?</li> <li>• Are the sentences easy or hard to understand? Why?</li> <li>• Why do you think the author chose this genre or format (like picture book, poem, etc.)?</li> <li>• How does this passage/paragraph fit into the text as a whole?</li> <li>• How does the author craft the organization of this story to add to meaning?</li> <li>• Where does the author want us to use different thinking strategies (picturing, wondering, etc.)? What makes you say this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this text "look" on the page (columns, numbered paragraphs, etc.)? How will this support your reading?</li> <li>• What is the structure of this text (or part of the text)?</li> <li>• What is the genre? What genre characteristics do you find?</li> <li>• Are the sentences easy or hard to understand? Why?</li> <li>• Why do you think the author chose this genre or format (like picture book, poem, etc.)?</li> <li>• How does this passage/paragraph fit into the text as a whole?</li> <li>• How does the author craft the organization of this [article] to add to meaning?</li> <li>• Where does the author want us to use different thinking strategies (picturing, wondering, etc.)? What makes you say this?</li> </ul>
6. Point of view*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is speaking in this passage?</li> <li>• Whom does the narrator seem to be speaking to?</li> <li>• What is the narrator's/character's point of view (what does he or she think about ___)?</li> <li>• What does the narrator/character care about?</li> <li>• Are there particular words that the author chose to show strong feelings?</li> <li>• Do different characters have different points of view about ___?</li> <li>• How do you know?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the author of this article/book?</li> <li>• Whom does the author seem to be speaking to?</li> <li>• What is the author's point of view about ___?</li> <li>• What does the author care about?</li> <li>• Why did the author write this?</li> <li>• Do you think the author is openly trying to convince you of something? What makes you say this?</li> <li>• Does this information change your point of view about ___?</li> </ul>

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7. Different kinds of texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do the illustrations add to the meaning?</li><li>• How is the [live version, video, etc.] the same or different from the print version?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do the graphics [charts, maps, photographs, etc.] add to or clarify the message?</li><li>• How does the [video, interview, etc.] add to or change your understanding of this subject?</li><li>• How do you read this like a scientist/historian?</li></ul>
8. Critiquing text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This standard is not applied to literary text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did the author provide sufficient evidence on the subject to support his or her claim?</li><li>• Did the author present the subject fairly, explaining all sides of the situation without bias?</li><li>• Did the author provide sufficient evidence on the subject?</li><li>• Did the author leave out information that should have been included?</li><li>• Is the author knowledgeable on the subject with current information?</li><li>• Is there anything the author could have explained more thoroughly for greater clarification? What?</li></ul>
9. Text-to-text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How is [Character 1] the same as or different from [Character 2]?</li><li>• How is [first story] different from [second story]?</li><li>• How is the message/theme of [Story 1] the same or different from the message/theme of [Story 2]?</li><li>• [For stories by the same author] Is there anything about the way [Story 2] was written that reminds you of the craft in [Story 1]? Explain.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the information from [Text 1] express the same or different point of view from Text 2]?</li><li>• What new information did you get from [Text 2] that was not included in [Text 1]?</li><li>• Is there anything in [Text 2] that contradicts the information in [Text 1]? What is the contradiction? How could you decide which source is more accurate?</li></ul>

\*See separate chart on author's craft, Figure 5.3, Recognizing the Author's Craft During Close Reading.