**Close Reading Steps for Fiction:**

**1. *Number* the paragraphs or stanzas or lines, depending upon the length of the**

**work.**

**2. *Chunk* the text according to *story action or Freytag’s Pyramid* :**

**description, problem, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.**

**3. *Highlight or circle or underline* important literary elements:**

**look for setting, character, point of view, mood/tone, figurative language, story,**

**theme.**

**4. In the *left margin*: what is the *author saying*- *purpose, theme, central idea?***

**5. In the *right margin:* *author techniques*: literary elementsto prove the author's**

**main idea or theme or purpose.**

**What goes into a fiction analysis paragraph?**

**1. First sentence: introduce the topic and include the title and author**

**(if no author, anonymous) of the work.**

**2. Second sentence should be *your thesis statement*- your main idea about the**

**author's *purpose and the techniques* used to explain the work's main idea (as it**

**relates to the question). If comparing to another work of literature: what main**

**idea connects these two works as it relates to a topic given or question?**

**3. Third sentence: *Explain* your main idea.**

**4. Next several sentences: *two techniques* the author uses to explain the theme**

**or thesis.**

**5. Next several sentences: after each technique, you must use a specific example**

**from the work to show the author's technique. Be sure to use the exact words**

**or lines (USE QUOTES AND GIVE CREDIT: for example: In Langston**

**Hughes’ poem, “Harlem,” the author builds the mood of the poem through the**

**use of more and more serious consequences in each simile: line 3-“…like a raisin**

**in th sun?” to line 10-“…like a heavy load.”**

**6. The last sentence or two should summarize your main idea about this work or**

**works, proof that you used, and *relate it to your life or world (What lesson did you***

***learn?)***