

**Reading Closely:** 

**Guiding Questions Handout** 

### Guiding Questions 1

# I. Approaching the text

Reading closely begins by considering my specific purposes for reading and important information about a text.

## I am aware of my purpose(s) for reading:

- Why am I reading this text?
- In my reading, should I focus on:
- The content and information about the topic?
- The structure and language of the text?
- The author's view?

## I take note of information about the text:

- Who is the author?
- What is the title?
- What type of text is it?
- Who published the text?
- When was the text published?

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II. Questioning **Texts** Reading closely involves: 1) initially questioning a text to focus my attention on its structure, ideas, language, and perspective, then 2) questioning further as I read to sharpen my focus on the specific details in the text

I begin my reading with questions to help me understand the text.

#### Structure:

- · How is the text organized?
- How do the text's structure and features influence my reading?

#### Topic, Information, and Ideas:

- What is this text mainly about?
- What information or ideas does the text present?
- What details stand out to me as I read?

#### Language:

- What key words or phrases do I notice as I read?
- What words or phrases are critical for my understanding of the text?
- What words and phrases are repeated?

#### **Perspective:**

- What is the author thinking and saying about the topic or theme?
- Who is the intended audience of the text?

I pose new questions while reading that help me deepen my understanding.

#### Structure:

 Why has the author structured the sentences and paragraphs this way?

#### **Topic, Information, and Ideas:**

- What information/ideas are presented at the beginning of the text?
- What information/ideas are described in detail?
- What do I learn about the topic as I read?
- How do the ideas relate to what I already know?

#### Language:

- What words and phrases are powerful or unique?
- What do the author's words cause me to see or feel?
- What words do I need to know to better understand the text?

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### III. Analyzing Details

Reading closely involves thinking deeply about the details I have found through my questioning to determine their meaning, importance, and the ways they help develop ideas across a text.

I analyze the details I find through my questioning.

#### Patterns across the text:

What details, information, and ideas are repeated throughout the text? How do details, information, or ideas change across the text?

#### **Meaning of Language:**

Why has the author chosen specific words or phrases?

#### **Importance:**

Which details are most important to help me understand the text?
Which sections are most challenging and require closer reading?
Relationships among details:
How are the details I find related in ways that build ideas and themes?
What does the text leave uncertain or unstated? Why?

Analyzing and connecting details leads me to pose further text-based questions that cause me to reread more deeply.

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**Structured Notes** 

Key Detail	Page #	What challenges does Ha face fleeing home? How do the challenges reveal her dynamic character?	Vocabulary and Word Choice