

Bartlesville Public Schools – Summer Reading

The purpose of close reading is threefold: **to create trails**, **to establish territory**, and **to notice style**. When you create a trail, you are tracking patterns and the linear plot of the story. When you establish territory, you are connecting your life to the literature. When you notice style, you are paying attention to the grammatical structure of the sentences and observing any writing ideas you may want to use in your own writing.



Creating Trails...

As you read your novel, keep notes in the margins of what is taking place. Make a trail, so when you return to the novel later this year, you can follow your notes. Highlight passages you find intriguing or confusing. Make notes about the characters, setting, etc. This trail you create should make re-reading the story easier.



Establishing Territory...

As you read your novel, where can you see yourself? Do you identify with a character? A struggle? Novels that speak to us stay with us. Choose no more than 3 places in the novel where the novel spoke to you or reminded you of something in your life. Write this in the margin and put a sticky note on that page.



Noticing Style...

All good authors choose their words carefully. The great ones pay attention to the length of their sentences (long or short), the way they link phrases together, and their use of advanced grammatical structure. Choose 5 sentences that stand out to you because of their diction or their structure. Copy those on the back page of your novel. Explain why you like them in 2-3 sentences.

The reading of the story must be complete by the first day of school, however you will turn your book in to your teacher on September 14th.

Grade	Book
6 th	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>
7 th	<i>City of Ember</i>
8 th	<i>The Lord of the Flies</i>
9 th	<i>The Outsiders</i>
10 th	<i>The Hobbit</i>
11 th	<i>Of Mice and Men and The Great Gatsby</i>
12 th	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i>