

Name _____

Class _____

CRITICAL READING

Critical reading is paying close attention to all of the choices an author makes, and analyzing the effect these rhetorical choices have on the audience. Choose quotes that stand out to you because you are particularly interested in them—this could be because of how they sound, make you feel, confuse or puzzle you, remind you of something, raise questions in your mind, or challenge or support your beliefs.

You need to find one quote for each element of critical reading; each quote should include the page number so you can find it again. In analyzing these quotations, first **determine the significant** words, sentence structures, details, images, or moods from the quote. Then, think of something these significant features might **suggest about the meaning** of the quote (*This suggests that...*). Finally, **explain the implications or significance** of this suggestion (*This is important because...*). Think of this part as answering someone who asks, “So what?”

Diction

Quote:	What significant words/phrases are in this quote?
The use of these words/phrases suggests that...	
So what?	

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Syntax

Quote:	What is significant about the grammar/punctuation/phrasing/sentence structure?
The use of this significant feature suggests that...	
Why is that important?	

Detail

Quote:	Breakdown of Significant details (WWWWWH):
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The use of these particular details suggests that...

This is important because...

Imagery

Quote:

Descriptions of specific imagery used:

The use of these images suggests that...

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What is the purpose for using these images? (Hint: it's not to "paint a picture").

Tone

Quote:

What works to create this tone? What helps you understand it's supposed to sound this way?

The use of this tone suggests that...

This is important because...

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Claims

What claim(s) does the author make?	What facts and examples support the(se) claim(s)?
How does the author connect the evidence to the claims?	
How does the evidence help the author argue his/her point?	

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Ideology

<p>What is the author's stance or belief?</p>	<p>What is present in the text that helps you determine what the author believes?</p>
<p>What is the author omitting from his/her message? What is he or she not saying? Why might this be?</p>	
<p>Who is the audience for this piece of writing? How can you tell?</p>	
<p>What does the author hope the audience will understand, after reading this piece?</p>	

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