

## What is the LearnZillion definition of close reading?

At LearnZillion, we are defining close reading as the process of reading and rereading a complex text over an extended period of time in order to develop grade level thinking skills, as well as word and world knowledge. In the LearnZillion close reading model, close reading lessons take place over a 5-day period. During this time, students explore and analyze the text at the word, phrase, sentence, paragraph/section, and whole text level with the goal of uncovering multiple layers of meaning through a scaffolded approach. Teachers play a critical role in the close reading process not only by posing carefully crafted and sequenced text-dependent questions and guiding productive discussions, but also through modeling, think-alouds, and direct instruction that is essential to developing student reading skills. The ultimate goal of close reading, in concert with other essential instructional practices, is to grow strong readers who are equipped to tackle complex text independently and who take joy in the process of reading, writing, and thinking about text.

### LearnZillion Close Reading Lesson Plans have the following features:

- Close reading and re-reading of a text over five sessions.
- Lessons are ~45 minutes long.
- Texts used in lessons are short, complex texts (including picture books) or passages from a longer text, that fall within the recommended Lexile band of the given grade-level. Teachers play a critical role in supporting all students, regardless of their reading abilities, to access the text.
- Students engage in writing and speaking about the text and use evidence to justify and support ideas.
- Student engagement with the text is critical not only for making meaning of it but also for skill growth and mastery.
- Student mastery is measured through participation in accountable discussion and a range of written products, such as short written responses of one to ten sentences, longer written pieces, and other products such as notes and sketches.