

**Close Reading:
Interactions Between Form and Content in “Dear Giuseppe”**

With the last activity, we talked about the importance of paying attention to both form and content in close reading. Now, we’ll continue to build on this by analyzing the **interactions between the content of a text and the form of a text**. In this sense, close reading helps us not only pick out or describe the content and form of a text, but, rather, is a process of considering how form and content interact.

Page number(s) of the passage your group is close reading:

1) How does the text create meaning?

	Observation with specific quotations/examples [Form]	Relation to meaning [How form relates to content]
Context: <i>Where is the passage situated in the work? What comes before and after it? Does the passage echo or foreshadow other moments in the text, either in form or content?</i>		
Time: <i>What is the pace of the passage? Is time condensed or drawn out? Does the plot follow a linear progression or do flashbacks and memories interrupt the narrative?</i>		

<p>Narrative Mode: <i>Is there a particular tone in the text? Do you detect any distance or closeness between narrator and character(s)? Does their relationship change? Do you notice any contradictions in what the narrator says?</i></p>		
<p>Imagery: <i>What sorts of images, metaphors, similes, etc. are employed? What is their effect? Are there recurring symbols or objects that take on a specific importance? Does their presence come to signify something in particular?</i></p>		
<p>Language: <i>Examine the narrator's word choice. Are there lots of descriptive adjectives and adverbs, or very few? What actions do the verbs signify? Are there any really interesting, obscure, or dull words?</i></p>		

<p>Style: <i>Note any stylistic devices such as repetition, formal or colloquial language, tone, conventional or unconventional syntax, assonance, alliteration, rhyme and meter. What effects do these devices create?</i></p>		
<p>Broader Contexts: <i>Does the passage allude to other literary works, historical events, or cultural markers? How do these allusions affect the meaning of the passage?</i></p>		

2) Now, think more about the interactions *between* form and content.

Is what the text says in harmony or in tension with how it says so? Does the text's language and structure contribute to the transmission of its content, or hinder it? (Try to be specific.)

3) Why do these linguistic, narrative, contextual, formal details matter?

How do these details relate to broader themes and ideas elsewhere in the text? What insight do these particular details and passages give to the text as a whole? (Note related passages)

What possible questions or areas of inquiry does this close reading of text generate? (Write out some examples)