Hardly Seamless, but Steadfast - Disciplinary Reading and Writing and the Common Core

What is Close Reading?

- Reading to uncover layers of meaning that lead to deep comprehension
- Engaging with a text of sufficient complexity directly and examining it thoroughly and methodically
- Reading and reread deliberately
- It enables students to reflect on the meanings of individual words and sentences
- It enables students to reflect on the order in which sentences unfold and the development of ideas throughout the disciplines.

Close Reading – Its Theoretical Foundation

- New criticism theory (1940’s and 50’s)
- Not transactional analysis (Rosenblat)
- Not the lenses of Marxism, feminists, sociological, etc
- It emphasizes objective analysis of the text.
- Text as self-contained entity.

Classroom Practice?

- Use short texts –
- Don’t want to abandon longer texts - we want to enable students with a wide range of reading levels to practice closely reading demanding texts
- The Common Core standards suggest several genres of short text, both literary and informational, that can work at the elementary level.
- Many kinds of traditional literature—folk tales, legends, myths, fables, as well as poetry, and scenes from plays—enable and reward close reading.

smedow@pace.edu, ffalkross@pace.edu, pmcdermott@pace.edu
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by
Fran Falk-Ross, Ph.D., Sharon Medow, Ed.D. & Peter McDermott, Ph.D.

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