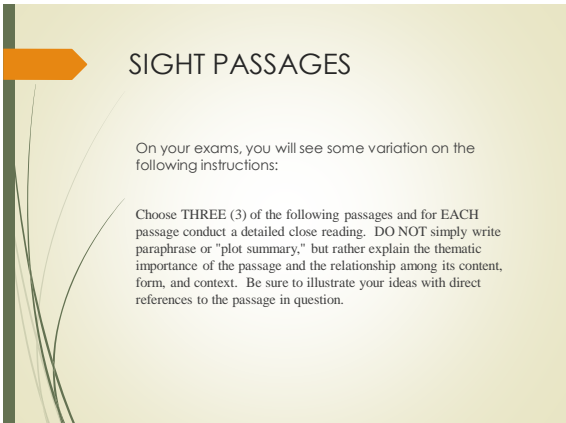




SIGHT PASSAGES



SIGHT PASSAGES

On your exams, you will see some variation on the following instructions:

Choose **THREE (3)** of the following passages and for **EACH** passage conduct a detailed close reading. **DO NOT** simply write paraphrase or "plot summary," but rather explain the thematic importance of the passage and the relationship among its content, form, and context. Be sure to illustrate your ideas with direct references to the passage in question.



SIGHT PASSAGES: THINGS TO REMEMBER

5 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Close Reading
- Context
- Focus
- Concretize and Illustrate
- WHAT and SO WHAT

SIGHT PASSAGES: CLOSE READING

CLOSE READING: Don't provide a general overview of the issue or passage. Look at, not just WHAT is said (CONTENT), but HOW this is said (FORM):

- patterns of imagery, word choice;
- significant elements of form (stanzaic structure, enjambment, rhythm, rhyme etc.);
- significant symbols;
- **How do these contribute to your understanding of a significant theme, idea etc.**

SIGHT PASSAGES: CONTEXT

CONTEXT: This term can mean a variety of things. You may consider "context" to refer to any or all of the following:


- how the passage relates to **the work as a whole** (if it is an excerpt);
- how the passage relates to the **general themes of the course**;
- how the passage relates to **issues shaping society and/or literature**;
- how the passage relates specifically to **other texts** we have studied during the course.

SIGHT PASSAGES: FOCUS

CHOOSING FOCUS: Each passage may have more than one possible theme or important idea. Don't sacrifice SPECIFICITY in order to talk about them all. Choose the theme or idea

- that is **most important** in your view;
- that will allow you to be the most **COMPREHENSIVE**;

SO/ think of the analysis as a little essay and provide a **THESIS STATEMENT** to unify your observations.



SIGHT PASSAGES: CONCRETIZE AND ILLUSTRATE

CONCRETIZE: PROVIDE an example that is a **direct reference to the text**:

- Quotation
- Identification of a pattern

ILLUSTRATE: EXPLAIN how your example **supports** your assertion or observation.



SIGHT PASSAGES: WHAT and SO WHAT

You might have noticed that there is a **correspondence** among the following three principles:

- Concretize and Illustrate;
- Introduce/Integrate/Interpret;
- WHAT and SO WHAT
