

Analyze and Interpret

Part of the ongoing process of deepening comprehension, **Analyze and Interpret** presents opportunities for students to revisit passages through the **Close Read**, to delve into knowledge-building tasks that hone vital **Inquiry and Research** skills, and to develop their literacy knowledge as they learn more about how texts works.

Routine | Close Read

Close Read

The Reading sections of college admissions tests require you to apply close-reading skills to answer questions about the details and deeper meanings of texts. Practice with these questions, which are based on paragraphs 39–41 of “Through the Tunnel.”

■ **PRACTICE** Select an answer for each item.

1. In the middle of paragraph 39, the word “conscious” means

- ☒ A) alert and able to think clearly.
- ☐ B) concerned about one's actions.
- ☐ C) marked by strong feelings.
- ☐ D) purposeful and aggressive.

2. Read sentences 3 and 4 in paragraph 40. Which choice describes the effect of the missing time between Jerry's thought of drowning and his clutching the rock?

- ☐ A) It builds suspense and echoes the panic that Jerry feels.
- ☐ B) It causes readers to question how he was able to reach the rock.
- ☒ C) It shows that he loses consciousness and then revives.
- ☐ D) It emphasizes Jerry's physical strength and training.

Purpose

The **Close Read** directs students to revisit specific passages and practice responding to the type of analysis and interpretation questions they'll encounter on state assessments and college admissions tests.

A Note about the Close Read

In grades 6–8, students are explicitly prompted to reply to the Close Read notes as part of this routine. In grades 9–12, invite students to return to the Close Read notes to clarify and deepen their understanding of the text before or during the Analyze and Interpret routine.

Routine | Inquiry & Research

Inquiry and Research

Paraphrase Source Material In real life, competitive swimmers train to increase their lung capacity. Research breath training and write an explanation of how Jerry's actions reflect or differ from approved practices. Include paraphrases from two sources and cite them using in-text citations.

A **paraphrase** is a restatement of someone else's ideas using your own words. To cite a paraphrase correctly, place the source details—often, the author's last name and the page number where you found the information—in parentheses after the paraphrased text, as shown here: *Breathing involves muscles, including the ones between the ribs (Hale 65).*

■ **PRACTICE** Research and write your explanation. Include at least two paraphrases and cite them correctly using in-text citations.

Purpose

Inquiry and Research prompts foster student agency by creating opportunities for students to explore their questions and interests as they develop skills such as paraphrasing, developing research questions, and evaluating sources. These brief tasks make inquiry and research a regular, rather than infrequent, part of learning.

Routine | Literary & Text Elements

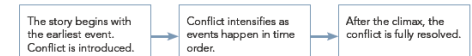
Linear Plot Development

Plot is the sequence of connected events that occur in a story. These events are driven by one or more conflicts, which may be external, internal, or both. Plots follow specific stages:

- **Exposition:** characters, setting, and basic situation are introduced
- **Rising Action:** conflict starts with an *inciting incident* and begins to intensify
- **Climax:** conflict reaches its highest point of drama or tension
- **Falling Action:** tension in the story lessens
- **Resolution:** conflict ends, and remaining issues are resolved

In many stories, the order of these events is *linear*, meaning they follow a straight line through time. Other stories feature *nonlinear* elements, such as flashback or flash-forward, both of which present events out of time sequence.

Linear Plot Development



■ **PRACTICE** Answer the questions.

1. (a) **Analyze** What hints of conflict between Jerry and his mother appear in the story's exposition? (b) **Distinguish** What other aspects of the setting and situation that are important to the plot appear in the exposition? Explain.
2. (a) **Analyze** What is the story's main conflict? (b) **Summarize** Explain the inciting incident that starts that conflict. (c) **Interpret** In what ways does that conflict include both external and internal factors? Explain.

Purpose

Each **Analyze and Interpret** routine focuses on a **Literary or Text Element** that unlocks deeper comprehension of the text being studied. As students read across texts and genres, they build their knowledge of how texts work, analyzing the elements that create meaning, define genre, and establish purpose. They also practice applying their newly-acquired skills and knowledge in their own writing.