**WHAT IS CRITICAL READING?**

You are often told to give a book a good critical reading. But do you know what that really means? Critical reading means reading with the goal of finding deep understanding of a material, whether it is fiction or nonfiction. It is the act of analyzing and evaluating what you are reading as you make your way through the text or as you reflect back upon your reading. When you read a passage critically, you actually read between the lines. By doing so, you determine the message that the author is really conveying.

Source (Grace Fleming, <http://homeworktips.about.com/od/homeworkhelp/a/criticalreading.html>)

We will practice the following tactics this year to become better critical readers.

**NUMS!!!!!**

**N-** **NUMBER** your paragraphs. As you read the passage assigned, number your paragraphs.

**U-** **UNDERLINE.** Underline key words, figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification), underline the authors thesis statement and topic sentences in each paragraph. Underline words that are repeated or that are explained. Underline words that you think are important in the text. Underline words you do not understand.

**Ms-** **MARGINS.** In the margins of the passage write the following: What is the main idea of this paragraph, what is the author saying in that paragraph (write this in 10 words or less) what is the tone? (is the author being funny, serious, argumentative, positive, negative in tone?), Using a ‘power verb’ write in the margin what the author is doing? Is he/she ‘defending’ an opinion in this paragraph? Is he/she describing something, comparing something in the paragraph?

Following the NUMS guidelines will help you understand and critical read passages and novels.

(Source: http://iteachicoachiblog.blogspot.com/2012/06/five-simple-close-reading-strategies.html)