**Things to Observe**

**Sentences**

* **Repetition of words** – Look for words and phrases that repeat.
* **Contrasts** – Look for areas, individuals, and /or items that are contrasted with each other. Look for differences.
* **Comparisons** – Look for areas, individuals, and /or items that are compared with each other. Look for similarities.
* **Lists** – Anytime the text mentions more than two items, identify them as a list.
* **Cause and effect** – Look for cause-and-effect relationships.
* **Figures of Speech** – Identify expressions that convey an image, using words in a sense other than the normal literal sense.
* **Conjunctions** – Notice terms that join units:
  + (FAN BOYS) for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
  + (www.asia.wub) when, while, where, as, since, if, although, whereas, unless, because
  + accordingly, also, besides, consequently, finally, however, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, otherwise, still, therefore, then
* **Verbs** – Note whether a verb is past, present, or future: active or passive; and the like.
* **Pronouns** – Identify the antecedent for each pronoun.

**Paragraphs**

* **Questions and answers** – Note if the text is built on a question-and-answer format.
* **Dialogue** – Note if the text includes dialogue. Identify who is speaking and to whom.
* **Means** – Note if a sentence indicates that something was done *by means of* someone/something (answers “how?”). Usually you can insert the phrase “by means of” into the sentence.
* **Purpose/result Statements** – These are a more specific type of “means,” often telling why. Purpose and result are similar and sometimes indistinguishable. In a purpose statement, you usually can insert the phrase “in order that.” In a result clause, us usually can insert the phrase “so that.”
* **General to specific and specific to general** – Find the general statements that are followed by specific examples or applications of the general. Also find specific statements that are summarized by a general one.
* **Conditional clauses** – A clause can present the condition by which some action or consequence will result. Often such statements use an “if…then” framework (although in English the “then” of often left out).
* **Actions/roles of God** – Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to God.
* **Actions/roles of people** – Identify actions or roles that the text ascribes to people or encourages people to do/be.
* **Emotional terms** – Does the passage use terms that have emotional energy, like kinship words (father, son, child) or words like “pleading”?
* **Tone of the passage** – What is the overall tone of the passage: happy, sad, encouraging, etc.

**Discourses**

* **Connections to other paragraphs and episodes** – How does the passage connect to the one that precedes it and the one that follows it?
* **Shifts in the story/pivots** – Is the passage being used as a key to understanding a dramatic shift in the story?
* **Interchange** – Does the passage shift back and forth between two scenes or characters?
* **Chiasm** – Does the passage have any chiastic arrangements, like a

b

c

d

c’

b’

a’