

## Academic Language and Close Reading

### FIRST READING: GET THE GIST – RETELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Who are the characters? (James and his Dad)

What is the setting (time and place)? Dinner time at home

What is the problem or situation James is facing? He doesn't want to eat broccoli

What is the problem James's dad is facing? He wants James to eat his broccoli

What does James do? (asks if he can eat anything else)

What does his dad do? (gives him some ridiculous options but he makes them all sound like they might be good options until you think about what he is saying.)

How does the story end? James decides that the broccoli is the best option and we can conclude that he eats it.

### SECOND READING: READ FOR DETAILS

Let's look more deeply at the characters:

What do we know about James? He is a picky eater. He doesn't want to try or to eat the broccoli. He thinks he might be able to eat something else.

What do we know about James's father? He doesn't get mad. He doesn't tell James he has to eat the broccoli. He is funny. He makes up some ridiculous options, but he doesn't really have these to offer to James.

### THIRD READING: READ FOR STYLE AND CRAFT (such as tone – the author makes this humorous)

What is the first option/choice? Dirt

What makes this dirt sound like it could be good? What words does the author use to make this sound ok?

What is the truth about the dirt? It is still dirt. What words does the author use to make this sound ok?

What is the second option? Extremely pre chewed gum

What is the third option? Marathon runner sock What words does the author use to make this sound ok?

Is this story funny? What is funny about it and why? He gives lots of specific details.

How are we fooled or tricked by this author?

This stuff is all disgusting but it sounds pretty good.

How does the author make this funny? The father treats it very seriously, but we know he isn't serious. He doesn't really have these things for James to eat.

Why does James finally go ahead and eat the broccoli? Probably because he is hungry and his father isn't going to give him any decent choices.

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO TEXT: What kind of disgusting but detailed food could you come up with to offer James? Make sure you provide plenty of details. After you write something, think about your tone.