**Blog Post#1: Extended Close Reading**:

**Due:** posted to class blog by class time **Wednesday**, **9/19**

**Length:** 250-300 words (about one page in MS Word)

Remember the close reading tools we’ve discussed in class (aka “The Method” and “5 Analytical Moves” in *Writing Analytically).* In your post, try to answer some of the following questions:

* 1. What do you think the passage is really about? Why do you think that? (i.e. what language in the passage makes you think that?)
  2. How is the passage related to the whole of the novel so far? So what? What do *you* think that *means*? (For example: What does the repetition of the words “noble place” mean when you think about the passage in the context of the novel?)
  3. When you quote from a reading, put the page number in parenthesis after the quotation. (Example: Phoebe exclaims, “So this is what my lady hides in the secret drawer” (Braddon 34).)

What I'll be looking for is your ability to close read and begin to analyze some of the language in the novel.  Think about what we did in class, and then attempt to do that on the page. (You are welcome to revise your freewrite or you may take your thoughts in a new direction.)

\*Tip: Just like in your freewrite, don't try to write about the whole novel. *Focus on a few lines or even a few words*; then move to thinking about the novel more generally. I am serious about the page limit. Edit your writing so that you say something in just one page.

Finally, don’t be afraid! Try taking a risk. Try thinking “it might be crazy, but what if this passage is about…” Then tell me *why* you think that.

You may find it helpful to draw on our class discussion and/or the handout from the *Longman Anthology*.

**How to post to our class blog:**

Step 1: Join the blog and create your nickname/pseudonym

* Accept the invitation that came via email from Ryan Burke
* Login using the “Login” link under the “Meta” heading on our class blog (very bottom of page)
* Go to “Dashboard”
* On the left side of the Dashboard under “Users” click on your ID
* Enter a new “nickname” in the “nickname” text box
* Choose your new nickname under dropdown menu labeled “display name publicly as”
* \*\*\*\*Scroll down and “update profile”\*\*\*\* (You must do this! It does not automatically save!!)

Step 2: post an entry

* On the left side of the Dashboard mouse over “Posts” and click “Add New”
* Title your post and enter your text (Make sure you title the post!!)
* \*\*\*\*\*Click “Publish” to publish your post\*\*\*\* OR, you can save your post as a “draft” under the Publish menu on your right. (Click “Edit” next to the “Status: Published” line)
* Feel free (I encourage you!) to add images or links. Always make sure to cite where you get your sources.
* Your entry should show up under the “Class Blog” tab on our website
* Email if you have any trouble