

Strategies for Enhancing Student Interaction through Close Reading

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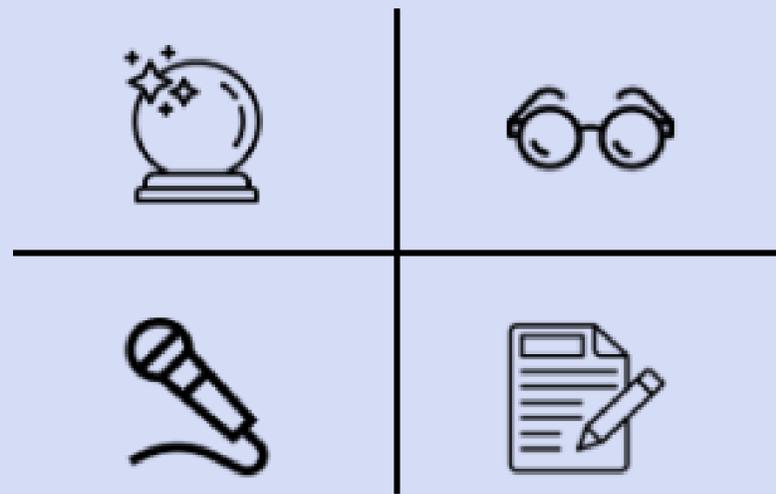
18 October 2025

Disclaimer

To enhance the teaching content, teachers can exercise their professional judgment and consult relevant scholarly work when adopting the learning and teaching resources prepared by educators and other teachers. In support of the implementation of the English Language Education KLA Curriculum, teachers can also select appropriate parts of the resources for classroom learning or extended learning based on pedagogical consideration and the learning needs of students.

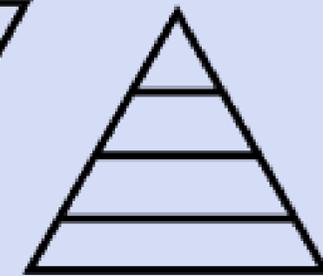
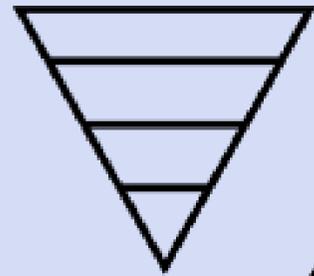
Key Concepts in Reading Instruction

Key Comprehension Strategies



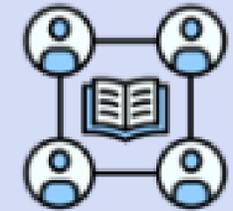
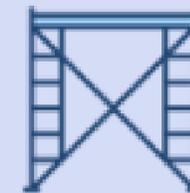
Gradual Release of Responsibility

Teacher
Responsibility



Student
Responsibility

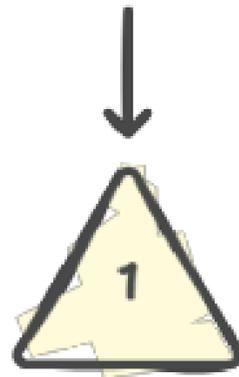
Instructional Foundations



Close Reading: the pedagogical steps

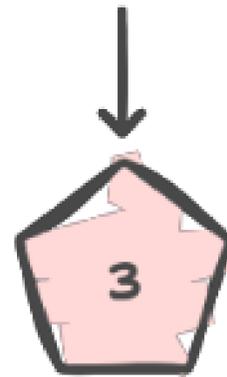
Use What I Already Know

Activate prior knowledge



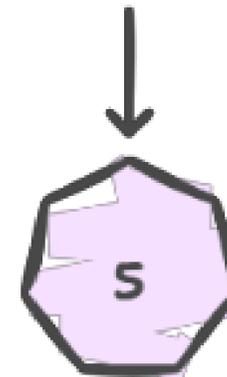
Model the Strategy

Using a think aloud from the text



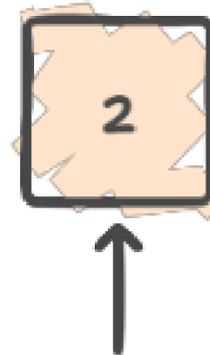
Give Feedback

Teacher corrects and extends students understanding of the strategy



Explain the Strategy

Use student-friendly language



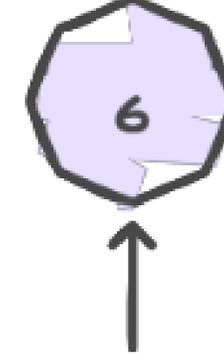
Students Practice the Strategy

Release responsibility



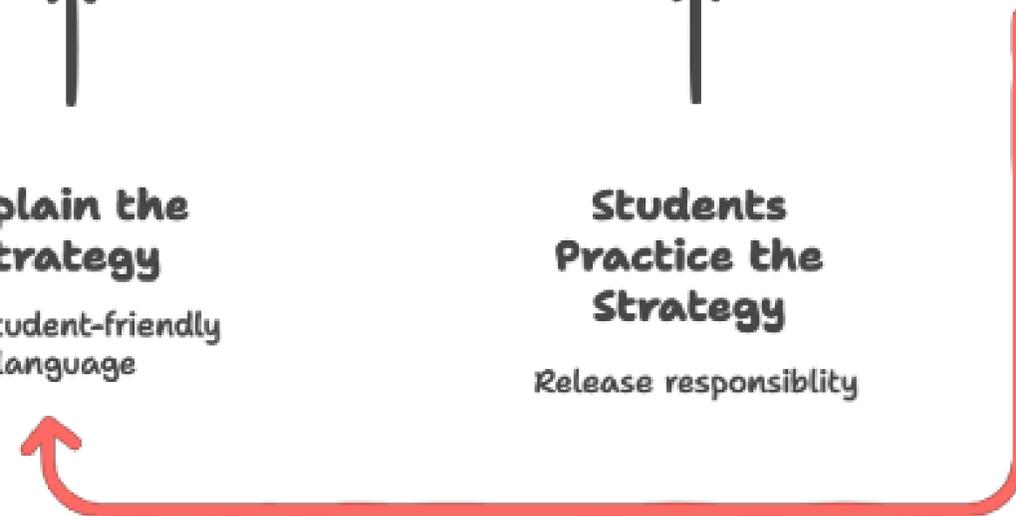
Reflect and Discuss

Students reflect and discuss their use of the strategies



Repeat Steps 2, 3, 4 and 5

For each strategy: Predict, Clarify, Question, Summarise



School Background



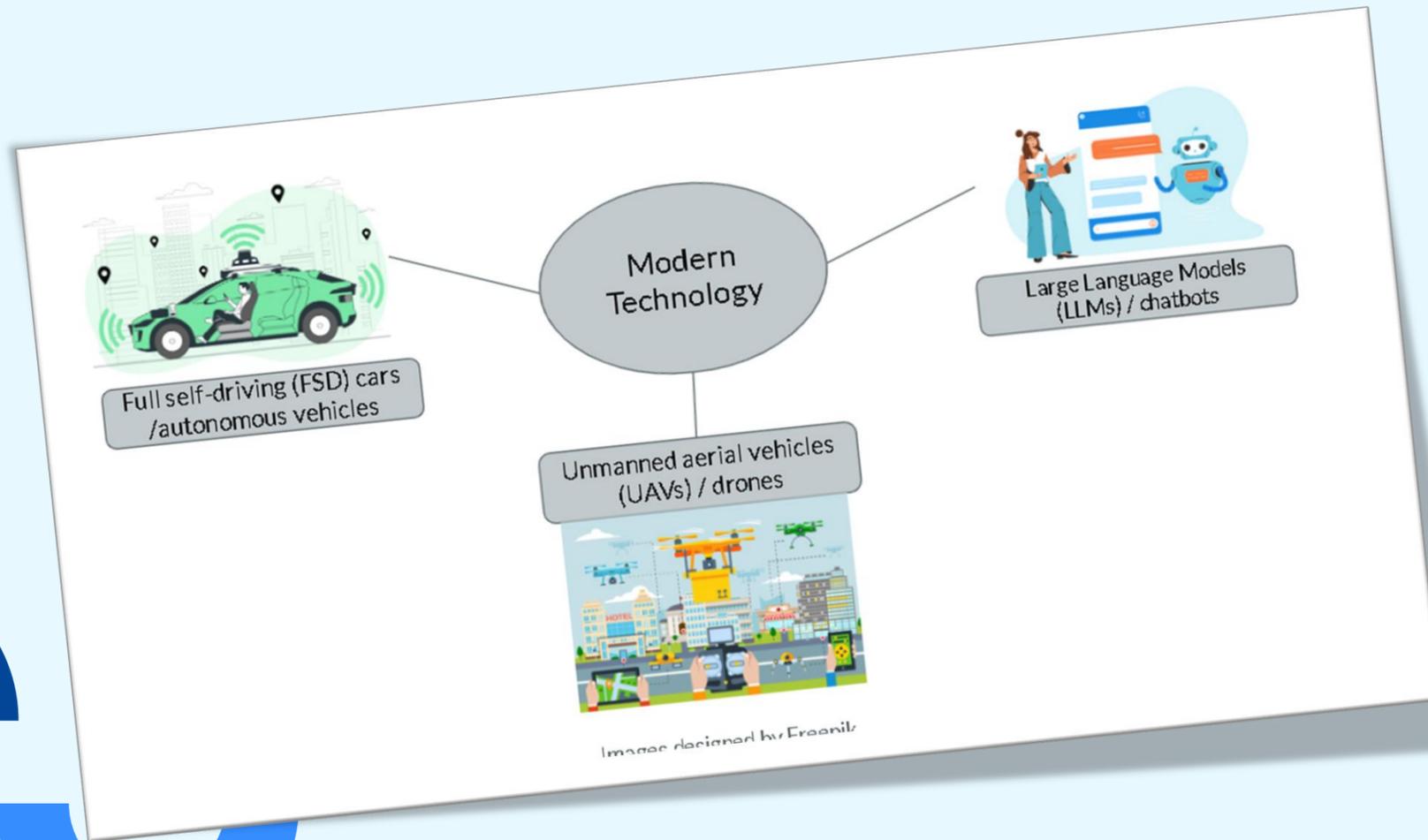
- A Catholic Secondary School located in Yuen Long
- Students are well-behaved, although their English proficiency is still developing.
- Students' learning needs: cultivate a stronger interest in their learning, broaden their knowledge base, and develop their reading and thinking skills

Overview

- Explain how the Close Reading approach enhanced learning and teaching
- Illustrate how key reading strategies were integrated into a unit on Science and Technology
- Address how the S4 reading lessons enhanced students' confidence in speaking during a discussion forum

Activating Prior Knowledge and Building Topic-specific Vocabulary

- Using brainstorming activities to activate prior knowledge at the start of the unit
- Focusing on topic-related vocabulary to enhance comprehension



Unit 3 Science and Technology
Word Sort Activity

All the words below appear in the texts in Unit 3.

Large learning models (LLMs) 	"eyes in the sky" technology 	Driverless cars 	Chatbots 
Autonomous vehicles 	ChatGPT 	Drones 	abuse of privacy 
Surveillance cameras 	Waymo 	Artificial Intelligence (AI) 	Full self-driving (FSD) cars 
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) 	Poe 	Robotaxi 	Cheating in exams 

Instructions for students:

1. Working groups of 3 or 4.
2. Read through and discuss the words and make sure everyone knows what they are.
3. Discuss how the words can be organized into groups under different headings.
4. Make lists for each group of words and decide what the headings will be.
5. Use all of the words at least once. You can put some words into more than one group.
6. Finalize your lists under each heading.



Predict

I think this text will be about... because...
I predict/expect/think... will happen because...
I think I will learn... because...

Clarify

To clarify this word, I can:

- chunk the word into smaller parts
- reread to find clues
- read on to find clues



Question

What do I already know about ...
I wonder...
Who.../ What.../When.../Where.../
Why.../How.../What if...?

Summarise

The most important ideas are...
This part is about...
The main theme of this text is...
I think the message is...



Predict

Good readers look at the text features and make predictions before reading.

I can see that the title is “To Fly or Not to Fly” and the first sentence tells me something about UAVs, or drones, so the title must refer to drones. The first sentence also has the words “popular” and “worldwide”.

I think that I will learn about why drones are popular around the world.

To Fly or Not to Fly

[Show Answers](#)  [Reset](#)  [Show Codes](#) 

1 [1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.

[2] Thanks to the rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, image resolution, battery life, and flight stability, various industries have quickly adopted UAVs. For instance, farmers use them to assess the health of crops, and big organisations like NASA and the BBC are investing in fleets of UAVs to capture images for research, news, and documentary purposes. In recent years, UAVs have been used to deliver restaurant meals and grocery orders and to provide emergency supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

10 [3] The popularisation of UAVs is not without controversy. Back in 2015, an incident raised the alarm about the potential dangers of drones. A video revealed an experiment of a gun-firing UAV converted by an 18-year-old mechanical engineering student in the US.

15 [4] Some also warned, ‘We’re already living in a world fitted with over 250 million professional-quality surveillance cameras by law enforcement units. UAVs will pose another layer of threat to ordinary people’s privacy.’ UAVs don’t just change the way various government agencies police us; this ‘eyes in the sky’ technology has an enormous potential for abuse of privacy and an impact on public safety.

20



Vocabulary Help  [Play Sound](#)

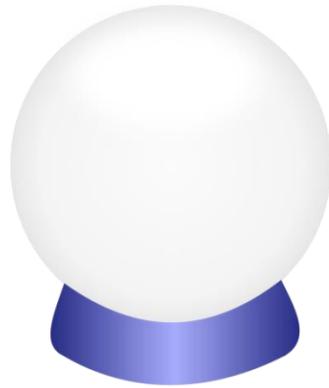
unmanned (adj.) — operated or controlled without the need for a human pilot or crew on board

aerial (adj.) — relating to or occurring in the air or atmosphere

evolution (n.) — the gradual development or advancement of something, especially through a process of change over time

convert (v.) — to change or adapt something into a different form, function, or purpose

surveillance camera (n.) — a security device used for monitoring, directing, or protecting people



Predict

Good readers make predictions before reading and then read actively to check their predictions.

To Fly or Not to Fly

Show Answers 

Reset 

 Show Codes

- 1 [1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.

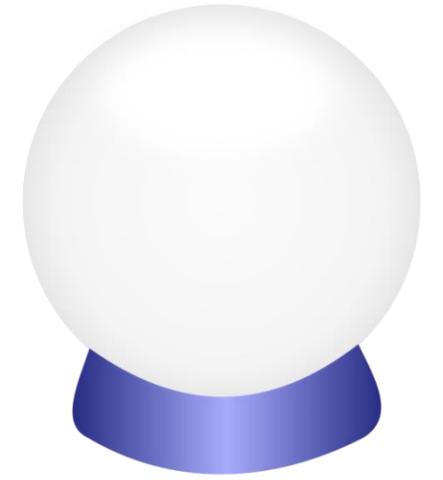
Predictions:

- *I think that drones are popular around the world because they can take pictures from the sky.*
- *I think that drones are a concern in many places because...*

Strategy: Make predictions based on the text features and background knowledge.

Discuss Predictions

- *I think that drones are popular around the world because ...*
- *I think that drones are a concern in many places because...*



Strategy Starters

- I think ... will happen because ...*
- I'll bet this text is about... because ...*
- I wonder if ... will happen.*
- I imagine/suppose/predict ... will happen.*
- I think I will learn ... because ...*

Read aloud to model fluency

- Read the article aloud to model fluent reading.
- Students follow along and underline words and ideas they find confusing.
- Students confirm or revise the predictions they made before reading.

To Fly or Not to Fly

Show Answers  Reset  Show Codes 

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10 supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

[3] The popularisation of UAVs is not without controversy. Back in 2015, an incident raised the alarm about the potential dangers of drones. A video revealed an experiment of a gun-firing UAV converted by an 18-year-old mechanical engineering student in the

15 US.

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20 government agencies police us; this 'eyes in the sky' technology has an enormous potential for abuse of privacy and an impact on public safety.

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Clarify

Good readers are aware of their thinking while they're reading. They know when the text makes sense and when it does not...

When I came to the word, "worldwide", I had to stop and use a fix-it-up strategy. First, I looked at the word parts (world + wide). Then, I re-read the whole phrase "...have become popular worldwide". I think "worldwide" means "all around the world".

To Fly or Not to Fly

Show Answers  Reset  Show Codes 

1 [1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.

[2] Due to the rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, resolution, battery life, and flight stability, various industries quickly adopted UAVs. For instance, farmers use them to assess the health of crops, and big organisations like NASA and the BBC are investing in fleets of UAVs to capture images for research, news, and documentary purposes. In recent years, UAVs have been used to deliver restaurant meals and grocery orders and to provide emergency supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

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1. On lines 1-2, why does the writer say that ‘UAVs have become popular worldwide and are a concern in many places’?

Hints	Answers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd Para	<p>Reasons for the popularity of UAVs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, image resolution, battery life, and flight stability.• Various industries have adopted UAVs, e.g. farmers use them to assess the health of crops, and big organisations like NASA and the BBC are investing in fleets of UAVs to capture images for research, news and documentary purposes.• In recent years, UAVs have been used to deliver restaurant meals and grocery orders, and to provide emergency supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.



2. On line 3, what does it mean by saying ‘the popularisation of UAVs is not without controversy’? (understanding double negative sentences)

Hints	Answers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The popularisation of UAVs is not without controversy. 	<p>Double negative sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not without → The popularisation of UAVs is with controversy. → The popularisation of UAVs has controversy.

3. Vocabulary: controversy (Line 11)

Text: The popularisation of UAVs is not without controversy.

Hints	Answers
<p>Read the lines that followed (Lines 11-13) Back in 2015, an incident raised the alarm about the potential dangers of drones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In spite of the popularity of UAVs, there are some potential dangers.

Question

Good readers ask questions while reading to deepen their understanding of the text. In the second paragraph, I can see that “various industries have quickly adopted UAVs.”

My question is: “Which industries have adopted UAVs?”

When I read on, I can find the answers:

- *Farmers (agricultural industry)*
- *Big organisations like NASA and the BBC*
- *Restaurants and supermarkets*
- *NGOs and government departments*

To Fly or Not to Fly

Show Answers  Reset  Show Codes 

1 [1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.

5 [2] Thanks to the rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, image resolution, battery life, and flight stability, various industries have quickly adopted UAVs. For instance, farmers use them to assess the health of crops, and big organisations like NASA and the BBC are investing in fleets of UAVs to capture images for research, news, and documentary purposes. In recent years, UAVs have been used to deliver restaurant meals and grocery orders and to provide emergency supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

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Question

A good reader asks questions before and while reading.

To Fly or Not to Fly

Show Answers



Reset



Show Codes

- 1 [1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.

Questions:

- *Why have drones (UAVs) become popular worldwide?*
- *Why have drones become a concern in many places?*

Strategy: Read on to find out more!

Re-read to Question

- Reread the text, looking for parts to turn into questions.
- Choose **one part** to focus on and write **one question** about it on an index card.
- Hand in your card after you have written a good question.

Strategy Starters

I wonder ...

Who ... ?

What ... ?

When ... ?

Where ... ?

Why ... ?

How ... ?

What if ... ?

Why do you think ... ?

How do you think ... ?



Re-read to Question

- When you receive another card, work with your partner to re-read the text and find clues to answer the question.
- You may not be able to answer the question.

Summarise

Good readers summarise what they read by identifying the main ideas or arguments. Here is an example based on the first four paragraphs of the text.

*The article, “To Fly or Not to Fly” is **about** the benefits and potential dangers of unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones. They are becoming more popular around the world due to the rapid development of technology, but there are many reasons to be concerned.*

To Fly or Not to Fly

[Show Answers](#)  [Reset](#)  [Show Codes](#) 

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5 [2] Thanks to the rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, image resolution, battery life, and flight stability, various industries have quickly adopted UAVs. For instance, farmers use them to assess the health of crops, and big organisations like NASA and the BBC are investing in fleets of UAVs to capture images for research, news, and documentary purposes. In recent years, UAVs have been used to deliver restaurant meals and grocery orders and to provide emergency supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

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Reading Skills: Summarising

Summarise each paragraph of the article.

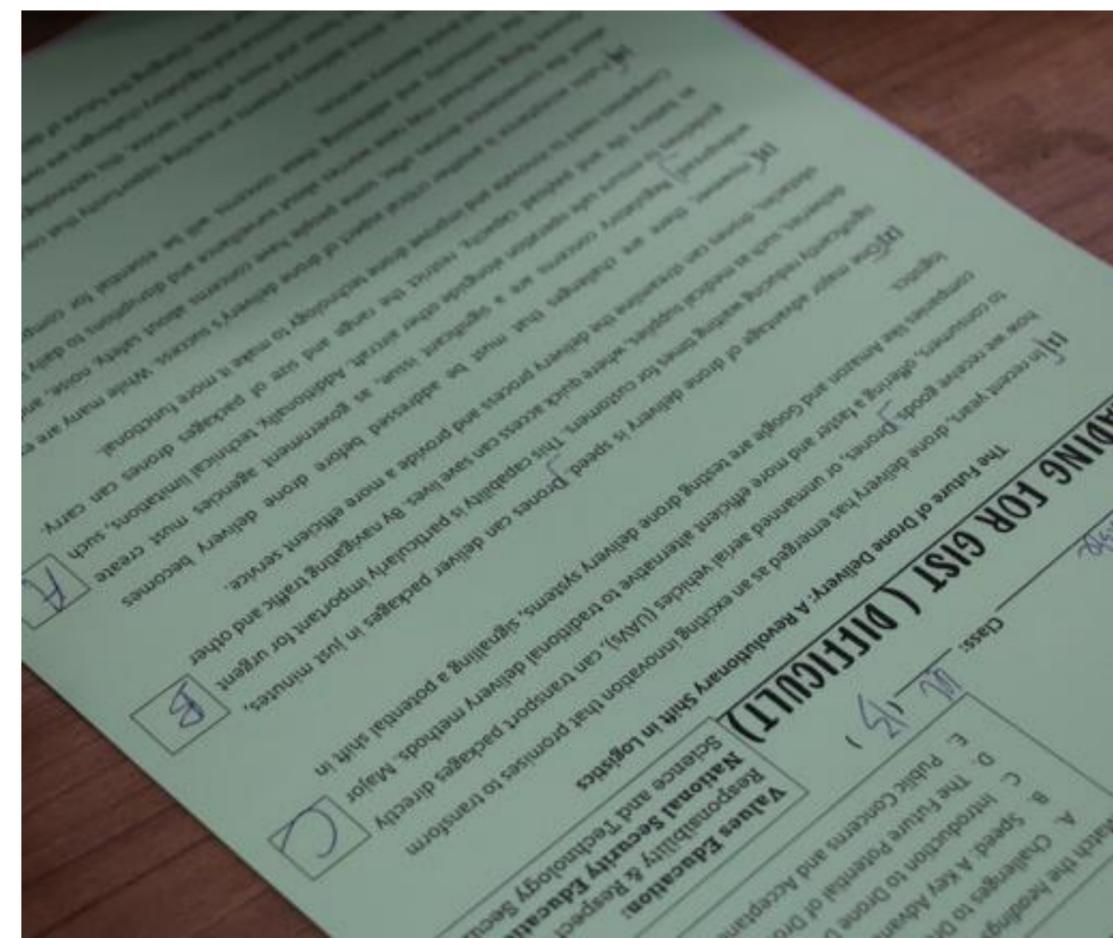
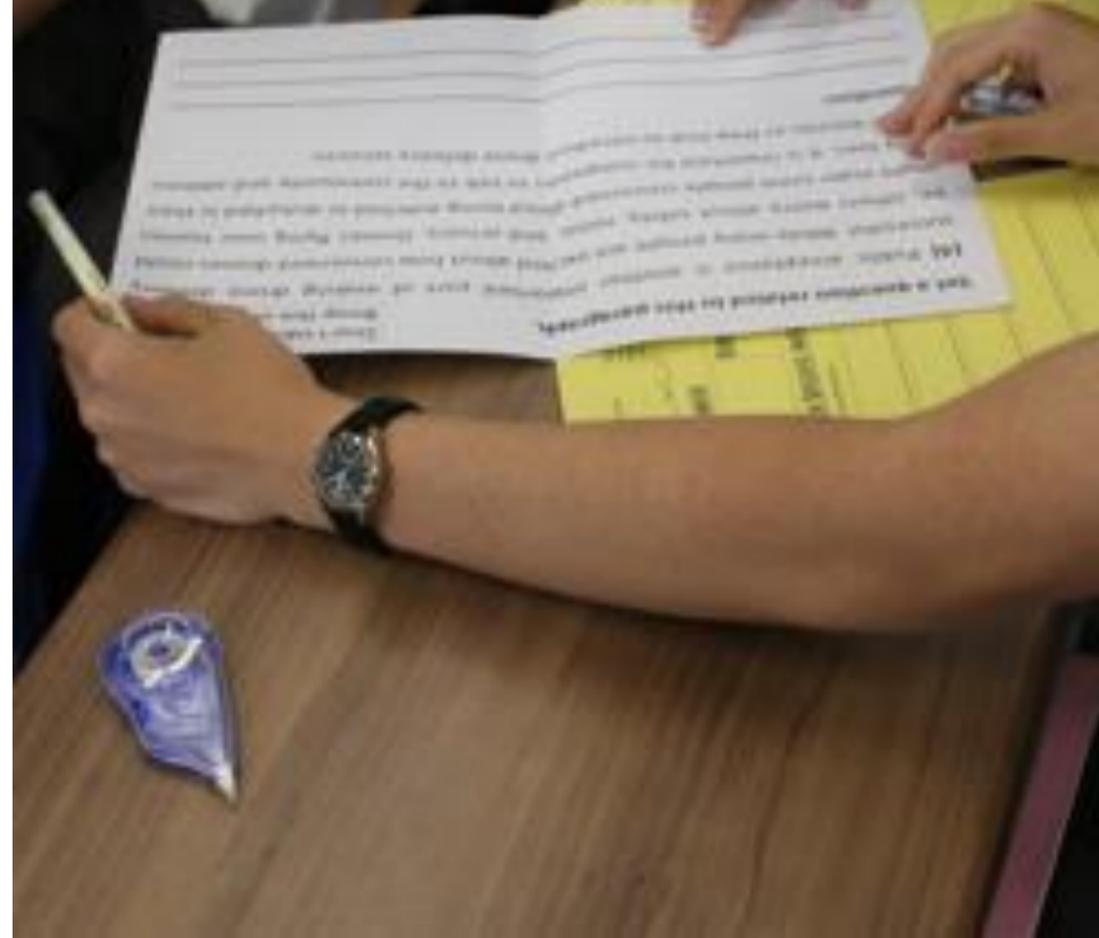
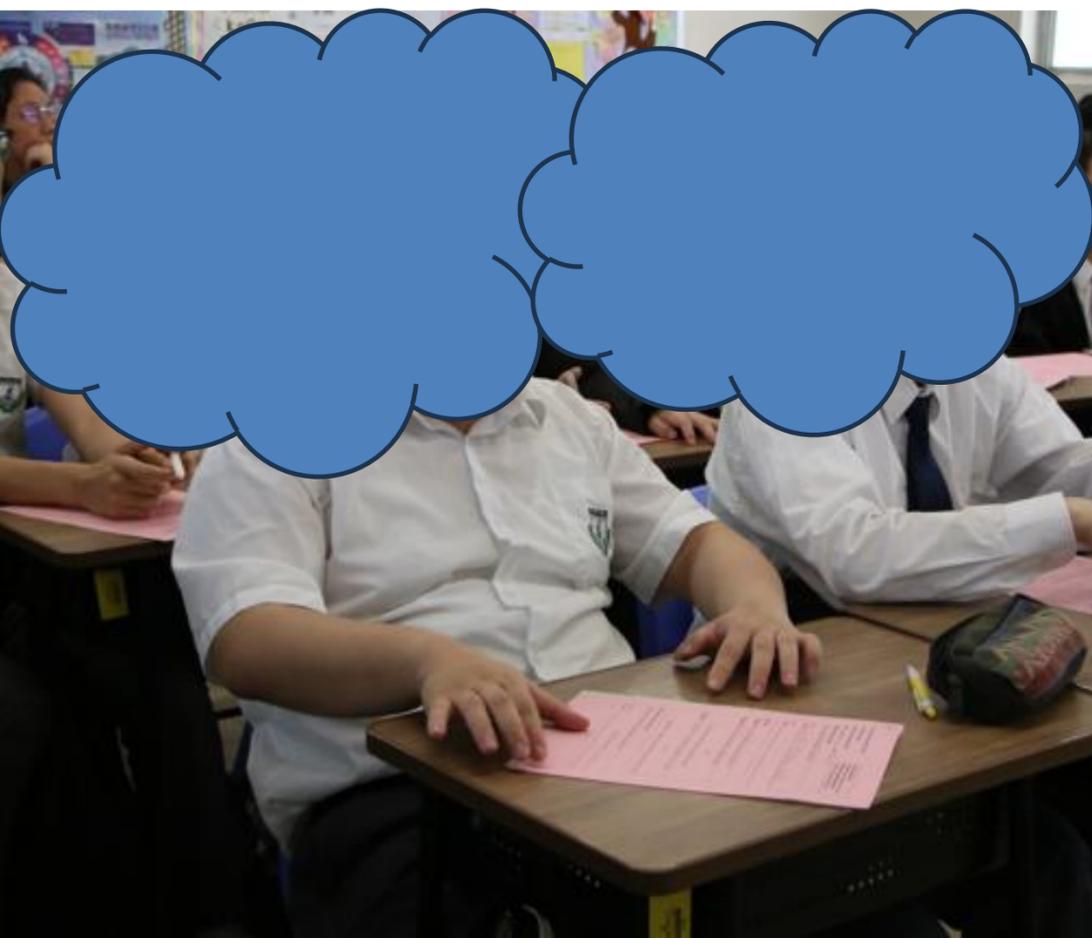
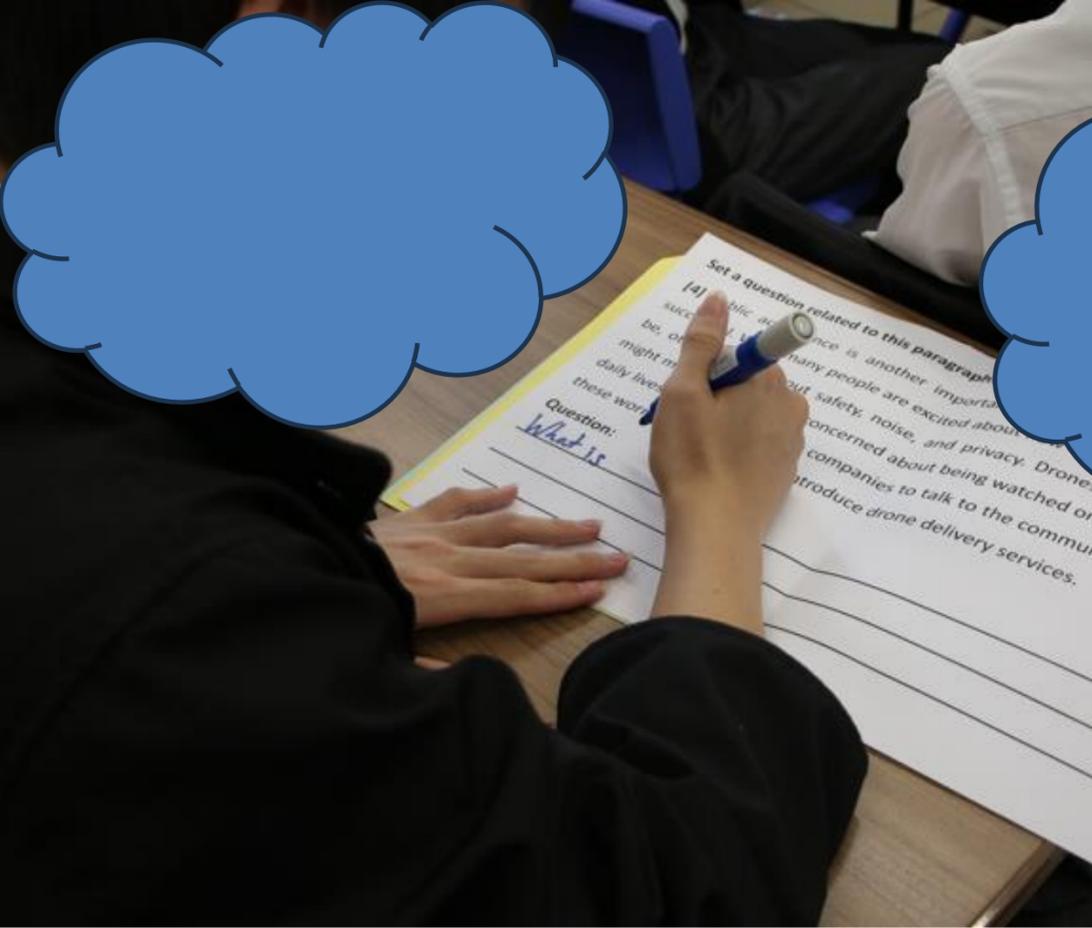
	Model Text: “To Fly or Not to Fly”, p.117 (about Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones)
Paragraph 1	[1] Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, have become popular worldwide and a concern in many places.
Summarise	This paragraph is about _____ _____ which _____ _____

Paragraph 2	[2] Thanks to the rapid evolution of technologies such as camera size, image resolution, battery life, and flight stability, various industries have quickly adopted UAVs. For instance, farmers use them to assess the health
--------------------	--

Based on the summary of each paragraph, write a summary of the article.

Summarise	This article is about _____ _____ which _____ _____
------------------	--

	_____ which _____ _____
--	----------------------------



Close Reading in Action



Text 3

• Matching comments

Play Sound Show Answers Reset Show Codes

The Steering Opinion

1 [1] The roads of tomorrow may soon be populated by a new kind of driver: the self-driving car. No longer confined to science fiction, autonomous vehicles are on their way to becoming a reality. Companies like Waymo and Cruise are logging millions of miles in

5 real-world testing, while Mercedes-Benz recently received approval for special lighting to indicate autonomous operation.

[2] Yet, this progress has not received the same wide acceptance and enthusiastic anticipation as the first smartphone in 2007.

10 [3] Jennifer Miles, a software engineer at a leading Full Self-Driving (FSD) company, answered a high school student's question at a community presentation on the technology. 'Full self-driving cars are a groundbreaking achievement,' she replied. 'They're poised to slash traffic accidents, reduce pollution, and deliver unmatched convenience. Our data convincingly show that FSD vehicles can

15 outperform human drivers in many aspects. One example is that FSD systems never get tired from driving; human drivers do, and this can lead to fatal accidents.'

[4] On the other hand, Dr Eric Hong, a safety analyst, is not so sure. 'The benefits of FSD cars cannot blind us to the inherent dangers,'

20 he argues. 'The technology is still in its developmental stages. The recent unfortunate events with robotaxis have highlighted the unreliable nature of autonomous systems and the severe fallout of their malfunctions.'

[5] Community leader Maria Lai shares her views in an interview. 'I

25 understand FSD cars are the future, but let's not rush to adopt them,' she notes. 'Our infrastructure is not yet prepared for such a sudden transformation. We need broader discussions from various sides on how this new technology works best for us. We want a smooth transition.'

Vocabulary Help

Play Sound

confine (v.) — to limit or restrict something within a particular boundary or scope

log (v.) — to travel and record a particular distance

poised (adj.) — ready to do a particular thing

slash (v.) — to reduce drastically or significantly, often in terms of quantity or size

fallout (n.) — the negative consequences or effects resulting from a particular action, decision, or event

Close Reading in Action

Students' Work on Reading Skills

Reading Skill

Predict

I predict that self-driving cars will face a lot of challenges during their development and popularization because the text mentions that their progress isn't as widely accepted as the first smartphone in 2007.

Question

1. What are the main technical difficulties that self-driving cars are currently facing?
2. Why do some people oppose the rapid adoption of self-driving cars?
3. I wonder how the infrastructure can be improved to better support self-driving cars.

Clarify

Two words that I didn't get were: "inherent" and "malfunctions".
I look for word parts that I know. For "inherent", I know "in-" can mean inside, and guessed it might be related to something inside or essential.

Please do not write in the margin. 請勿在此書寫。

1) Prediction

I think I will learn that self-driving cars will gradually become popular in the next few years and play an important role in reducing traffic accidents and improving social convenience. However, this development process may encounter technical and infrastructure challenges. Because technological progress, with the rapid development of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies, autonomous driving systems are able to cope with complex traffic conditions.

2) Clarify

Two words that I didn't get were:

- 1) Unreliable
- 2) Infrastructure

Strategies I used:

- Used a dictionary

3) Question

- 1) What are the potential risks associated with fully autonomous driving?
- 2) Why do you think public perception of self-driving cars is so mixed?
- 3) I wonder how long it will take for infrastructure to adapt to self-driving vehicles?

Close Reading in Action

Reading Skills (Notes) 80-100 words p.104

Value: Perseverance & _____

1) Prediction

I predict that this article will discuss the Full Self-driving cars' advantages and disadvantages and then explain them.

Because the paragraph two of this article says that 'Yet, this progress has not received the same

enthusiastic anticipation as the first

I can confirm my prediction.

I can partially confirm my prediction.

I cannot confirm my prediction.

2) Clarify

Two words that I didn't get were:

1. enthusiastic

2. anticipation

Strategies I used:

I used a dictionary

3) Question

Three questions I have are:

1. Why Full Self-driving cars are groundbreaking achievement?

2. Why do people think the Full Self-driving cars are groundbreaking achievement?

4) Summarise

Here is a brief summary:

In my own words, this article is about the current state and future prospects of self-driving cars, highlighting both excitement and concerns surrounding.

3. I wonder what do people think if they ^{will} see that one day all cars are replaced by Full Self-driving cars.

4) Summarise

In my own words, this article is that not only discuss the advantages of the Full Self-driving cars, but also talk about the disadvantages of the Full Self-driving cars.

part is the balance between the benefits of potential risks involved. The article discusses the advancements in self-driving technology, the skepticism and safety concerns raised by consumers, and the challenges of testing self-driving technology. Next, an overview of full self-driving (FSD) cars. Then, a focus on the technology's reliability. After that, a community leader emphasizes the need for infrastructure readiness. Finally, the article concludes by suggesting a careful approach to adopting this new technology.

The engineer wanted to highlight the benefits of FSD cars, but the safety analyst and community leader expressed concerns about safety and preparedness, leading to a call for a more measured adoption process.

Discussion Forum

Structured platform for student-student interaction to reflect on learning

[photos removed]

Observed Changes in Student Learning

Students:

- learned to analyse a text through close reading (e.g. making predictions, clarifying unknown words and ideas that are confusing, asking probing questions, identifying main ideas for a summary);
- learned how to collaborate with each other and were engaged in the reading lessons (e.g. brainstorming words and ideas related to the topic, working in pairs and small groups on reading skills); and
- developed confidence in communicating ideas related to the topic.

Teacher Professional Learning

- Student diversity has increased in terms of learning needs, performance levels, socio-economic backgrounds, and language proficiency.
- Teaching has changed profoundly and classroom management has become more challenging.
- Teachers must:
 - deploy high-leverage teaching practices
 - personalise instruction
 - make effective use of innovative pedagogies and technology
 - pay attention to socio-emotional factors
 - create a classroom climate conducive to learning and student well-being
- Incorporating the 'close reading' approach in our daily teaching can facilitate student learning and enhance teaching effectiveness.



Thank You

**Mr Gary CHAN &
Ms Cherry MAN
Yuen Long Catholic Secondary School**

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