**Close Reading:**

1. Highlight words and phrases that suggest the purpose of the article. Annotate the impact of these words and phrases in the margin.
2. Highlight details which communicate tone. In the margin, explain how the details contribute to a particular tone.
3. Underline facts.

**From “Web Masters” a nonfiction article by Joe Bower**

Spiderwebs are flexible yet strong, ultrasensitive, adaptable to different settings, and able to span great distances (compared with the size of their makers). They perform a variety of impressive functions, the most obvious of which is capturing prey.

Not all of the world’s estimated 37,000 known spider species make webs. In fact, arachnologists categorize spiders based on this ability. Tarantulas and jumping spiders belong to the large group that doesn’t make webs. Instead, these arachnids, which are sometimes referred to as wandering spiders, stalk or ambush their prey.

**Close Reading:**

1. Highlight diction used to describe spiders. Annotate how this diction differs from those in "Web Masters"
2. Highlight details, syntax, and language. Annotate the impact they have on the author's feeling toward spiders.

Underline facts. In the margin, compose a statement comparing the use of facts in "Weaving" with "Web Masters."

**From “Weaving the World” by Janisse Ray**

Every night the spiders weave the world back together. This morning I see webs whole again, shining freshly gossamer in the new sun, webs we tore down last night accidentally, setting up the tent on the platform. All day paddling, we have been watching for them—zippers and bananas and crabs, colorful and intriguing. They are everywhere, stitching leaves to trees, and trees to shrubs, and shrubs to ground. . . .

The spiders have adapted to their fragility, their vulnerability; when we humans bungle into their webs, they scurry off, up a single thread into a sweet bay. They have no new technologies, no new economies. Across the prairies they spin and spin, as they have done for thousands of years, holding this outrageously glorious world together.