

Name _____ Cover, Search, Compare Multiple Choice Question Strategy

Date _____ ELA-based strategy



COVER, SEARCH, COMPARE: STRATEGY FOR ANSWERING MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

WHY SHOULD WE USE MCQ STRATEGIES?

- Most students have very few strategies to use when they answer multiple choice questions.
- Test creators who make MCQs use “distractor” choices to trick students into answering incorrectly.
- Students think writing portions of tests seem to be more important than answering MCQs correctly. This is not true. MCQs are often worth equal points to writing portions of tests.

MCQ STRATEGIES YOU MAY ALREADY USE AND **SHOULD CONTINUE** TO USE:

- **Close read and Annotate!** Reading closely and annotating important pieces of a text helps you go back into the text and find answers to MCQs quicker than having no annotations. It takes less time overall.
- **Gist up the text!** Gisting the text helps you focus, especially difficult (or boring) texts. When you gist, you are making meaning of all the parts of a text as you read and it helps you understand the central idea. A gist should be a note of a few words next to a section or paragraph of a text that captures the main idea.
- **Elimination strategy!** Eliminate an answer or two that you know are wrong (cross them out on your test booklet).
- **Go back into the text!** MCQs are NOT designed to be answered from memory. You should always go back into the text and re-read sections that are referred to in the MCQ question stems. Paragraph or line numbers are given to you in the question stem often.
- **Go back and recheck your answers!** Always go back and check your MCQs and go back into the text as many times and as often as you want.
- Other:
- Other:

WHAT IS COVER, SEARCH, COMPARE MCQ STRATEGY?

- Use the MCQ question stem to turn the MCQ into a “fill-in-the-blank” type question.
- Cover the MCQ choices with a post-it note, index card (or ignore the choices if you don’t have any of this to use).
- Read the question stem ONLY, and answer the question without looking at the choices right in your test booklet.
- If the line number(s) or paragraph number are referred to in the MCQ question stem, go back and reread the section. Reread the sentences before and after the line, or the whole paragraph, if needed.

HERE’S A VISUAL:

3. In paragraph six, the author uses the following the figurative language "Say he [Master] was a hard lump of clay. A hard, glinty coal." to suggest what about the Master?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

