

USE INTERACTIVE READING TO ENSURE YOUR STUDENTS

READ POETRY MULTIPLE TIMES

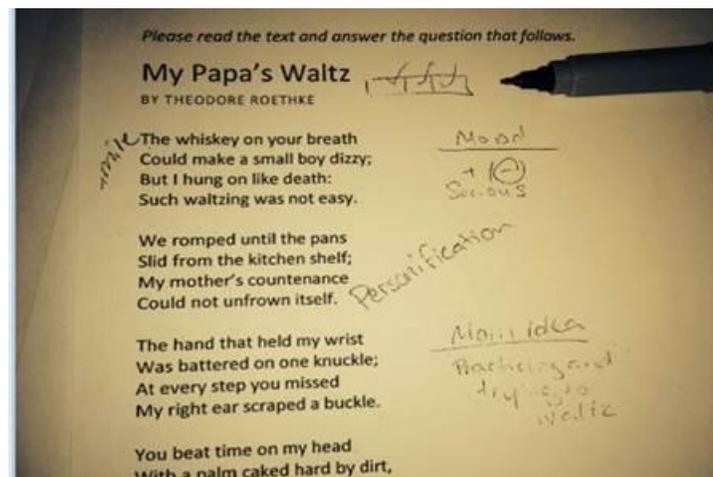
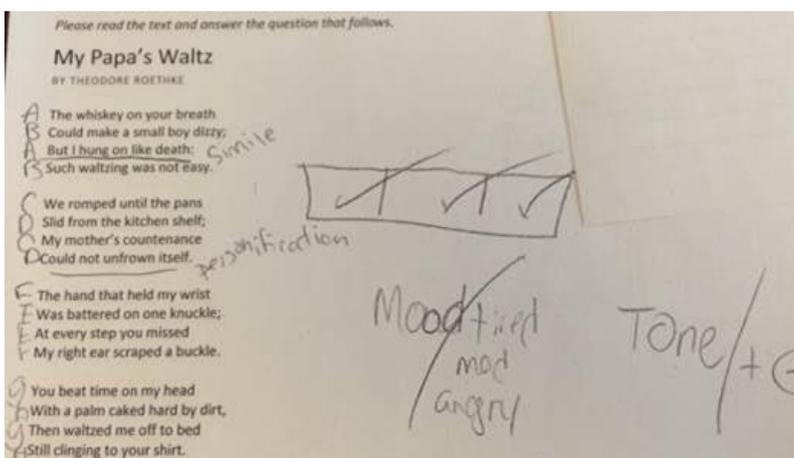
INTERACTIVE READING (IR), is a system readers use to engage with a text—by underlining, marking up key points, and summarizing ideas in the margin.

Having a **consistent system for marking up text** is important, and IR is best when reinforced in all subject areas (not just in the English classroom). IR is a fantastic habit to foster and nurture in your students; IR helps students break down and make sense of (often daunting) texts. IR works, in concert with Close Reading, to help increase the complexity of text students can read. (For more on the topic, check out our book, [Reading Reconsidered](#).)

In this Grab and Go we're focused on one educator's use of IR to **ensure students read poetry multiple times**. Amy Parsons, a dean of curriculum and instruction in Brooklyn, New York, found that when it came to reading poetry, her students struggled. Many of her students would read a poem quickly and try to make a general statement about a line or two of the poem that they vaguely understood. Often, she saw her students missing the overall tone and therefore they have no chance at understanding the underlying meaning of the poem. Amy wanted to slow her students down and teach them the right way to read a poem multiple times before trying to make sense of it. So Amy taught her students to read poems **three times** as follows:

- **FIRST READ.** Make a mood and tone note.
- **SECOND READ.** Make a main idea note.
- **THIRD READ.** Make two notes on literary devices used.

Amy's students record checkboxes alongside the poem, and then insert a check mark after each of the three reads. Here's what it looks like:



And, by asking students to track and record their multiple reads in a specific way, Amy also **Standardized the Format**—Technique 3 in *Teach Like a Champion 2.0*. The check boxes made it easy for her to hold students accountable for something that would otherwise be difficult to monitor. For more on this and to share your experiences with IR, please check out this blog post: <http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/reading-check-boxes-little-things-big-muscles/>