Close Reading Passages of Literature

1. Choose a passage (at least a paragraph but no more than a page) that stands out to you in some way, whether because you think it seems important or because it confuses you or simply because you like it. Copy the passage below and include the page number(s).

2. Briefly summarize below what information (at the plot level) is communicated in this passage, including who is “speaking” (whose voice we are hearing).

3. Explain below what your first impressions of this passage were. What did you like/dislike about it? What questions did it raise for you?
4. Which words did you circle, underline, or highlight? Why did these words stand out to you? Do these words relate to each other in any way? Do any of them carry multiple meanings or have different connotations?

5. (a) Does an image or idea presented in this passage remind you of one expressed elsewhere in the book? Explain. What is the connection between the two?

(b) Could this passage symbolize the entire work in some way? How does it connect with the book’s subjects and themes?