Three Levels of Critical Thinking (Active Reading)

**Literal:** notice facts, names, dates, setting

*Tip: When reading a passage the 1st time, circle or check mark anything unclear, including words you don’t know or people/places that are unfamiliar.*

**Interpretive:** Ask yourself **WHAT???

What is the story or situation about?
What is happening in the story or situation?
What is the author’s purpose?
What is the author’s thesis?
What is still unclear?

*Tip: When reading a passage the 2nd time, underline ideas that seem important to the reading. Make notes of your reactions or interpretations of key concepts in the margins.*

**Analytical:** Ask yourself **WHY/HOW?**

Why or how is the situation important?
How do people in the reading feel about or react to situations?
Why does the author seem to have a certain opinion?
How does the author express his or her thoughts, directly or indirectly. If the author seems neutral, who does have opinions?

*Tip: Ask yourself if the reading has any bearing on your life. If so, how or why? If not, how come or why not?*