***Billy Buck Excerpt*, from Steinbeck’s The Red Pony**

**Close Reading**

* **READ THE STORY CLOSELY READING FOR VOCABULARY**

**WORDBUSTING (CSSS)**

Identify and highlight the following vocabulary words:

**Bunkhouse Contemplative Stetson Currycomb Curried**

Design a chart that shows the context, structure, sentence, and definition for each word.

***context - What does the word mean in context of the sentence?***

***structure - Write the word with syllable breaks.***

***sentence - Write the word in your own sentence.***

***definition – Look up the word in the dictionary and write the definition***

* **REREAD THE STORY FOR MAIN EVENTS**

Design a circle map showing details from this excerpt. Choose key words and phrases in which the author writes like an artist to create a picture in the reader’s mind.

* **REREAD THE STORY FOR LANGUAGE**

Examine EVERY word of this description. Steinbeck is a

masterful writer and his 270 words are filled with not only

Billy's physical description but also his personality,

philosophy, occupation, rank in society, attitudes to life

and work, competence at his job, among other things. If

you try, you can list at least 35 separate aspects that

relate to Billy Buck.

* Choose two of Steinbeck’s sentences and rewrite them using appositive construction. How does your revision change the text without changing the meaning of the text?
* **REREAD THE STORY FOR WRITING A WRITTEN RESPONSE**

In about as many words, write a description of a person, real or fictional. You will ideally have the person either finishing or beginning something, such as getting ready to go to work or leaving work at the end of the day. Be sure to use a short time frame to enclose your description and give it an ending and a beginning. Use vivid words and let me (the reader)know everything about the person. HOWEVER, do not tell me everything-- imply as many things as Steinbeck does about Billy. For instance, why are Billy's eyes a "contemplative, watery grey" and his hair "spiky and weathered"? When do you find out Billy's occupation? When did you know what it is? Hint at the person's occupation and let me, the reader, discover your character's occupation.