Columbus/Smith Close Reading

Objectives:

1. Practice analyzing the small details of the text and relate to the bigger themes running throughout the whole work.
2. Apply close reading to Literary Analysis assignment.

Directions: Examine and analyze each quote taken from Columbus’ *Letters* and Smith’s *The General History*. Look at symbol, diction, syntax, repetitions, polarities, etc. and relate them to the themes in the entire text and to the historical/political/literary context.

Columbus

1. “As I know that you will be pleased at the great victory with which Our Lord has crowned my voyage, I write this to you, from which you will learn how in thirty-three days, I passed from the Canary Islands to the Indies with the fleet which the most illustrious king and queen our sovereigns gave to me” (Columbus 25).
2. “And there I found very many islands filled with people innumerable, and of them all I have taken possession for their highnesses, by proclamation made and with the royal standard unfurled, and no opposition was offered me” (Columbus 25).
3. “To the first island which I found I gave the name *San Salvador*, in rememberence of the Divine Majesty, Who has marvelously bestowed all this; the Indians call it “Guanahani” (Columbus 25).
4. “Of Espanola, Paria, an the other lands, I never think without weeping. I believed that their example would have been to the profit of others; on the contrary they are in an exhausted state…” (Columbus 27).

Smith

1. “The new President and Martin, being little beloved, of weak judgment in dangers, and less industry in peace, committed the managing of all thinks abroad to Captain Smith, who by his own example, good words, and fair promises, set some to mow, others to bind thatch, some to build houses, other to thatch them, himself always bearing the greatest task for his own share, so that in short time he provided most of them lodgings, neglecting any for himself” (Smith 46).
2. “Pocahontas, the King’s dearest daughter, when no entreaty could prevail, got his head in her arms and laid her own upon his to save him from death, whereat the Emperor was contented he should live to make him hatchets, and her bells, beads, and copper, for they thought him as well of all occupations as themselves” (Smith 53).