“Of Plymouth Plantation” – William Bradford Close Read

1. Read lines 19-24. Which verbs are active and which are passive?
2. Read lines 29-33. Archaic words are used that could be replaced with more modern ones. Replace fain and loath with something modern that is not in the definition on the page.
3. Detail John Howland’s rescue (lines 47-56). How does Bradford’s story differ from Thomas Jone’s story we read before this passage?
4. Identify three allusions in lines 78-109.
5. Reread line 110-116. Rewrite this lengthy sentence into shorter, more modern ones.
6. What special providences of God are given in line 178-185?
7. In lines 186-207, find the phrases that describe places, events, or people. What tone does Bradford use in this passage?
8. Summarize lines 234-259. What can be inferred about Bradford’s purpose from this paragraph?
9. Cite textual evidence from lines 260-268 that suggests Bradford saw the Pilgrim’s as having been chosen by God.

The Second Book

1. What is the purpose of the paragraph that introduces the Second book?
2. The diction (formal/informal word choice) of the Mayflower Compact (lines 285-307) differs from the previous section. Provide textual evidence to support this claim; one example from each piece.
3. How does the brief summary of events in lines 308-316 compare to those listed in Chapter X?
4. In lines 317-322, identify the phrases that are unfamiliar or appear out of context.
5. This is a primary source. In lines 330-339, Bradford hold up several colonists as examples of virtue. What characteristics did they have?
6. Paraphrase the treaty between the Massasoit and the Pilgrim’s. (lines 372-385)
7. Summarize Squanto’s life before the Pilgrim’s arrived. (Why did he already know English?)