“And then, on account of the fear she had of damnation, on the one hand, and his sharp reproofs on the other hand, this creature went out of her mind and was terribly troubled and harassed by spirits for half a year, eight weeks and some days. And in this time she saw, as it seemed to her, devils opening their mouths, all aflame with burning flames of fire as though they would swallow her in, sometimes pulling her and dragging her, night and day, during this time. And also the devils cried out at her with great threats and told her to forsake her Christianity, her faith, and deny her God, His mother, and all the saints in heaven, her good works and all good virtues, her father, her mother, and all her friends. And so she did. She slandered her husband, her friends and her own self; she spoke many reproving words and many harsh words; she knew no virtue or goodness; she desired all wickedness; just as the spirits tempted her to say and do, so she said and did. She would have destroyed herself many times at their instigation, and been damned with them in hell. And in demonstration of this, she bit her own hand so violently that it could be seen for the rest of her life afterward. And she tore the skin of her body above her heart with her nails pitilessly, for she had no other instruments, and she would have done worse except that she was bound and strongly restrained both day and night, so that she could not do what she wished.”

**Close Reading General Thoughts**

When reading and analyzing a text, it is important to be able to structure your work accordingly. You can look at minute details or incredibly broad themes within the particular text. I always like to start with the small details because it helps me to flush out the larger ideas later on. If you notice a theme from the outset though, don’t not pay attention to it; work with that idea some more. An author will usually reveal much more about the text in his or her small details than you will see upon first glance. You should pay attention to word choices and stylistic choices within the text (like alliteration in Margery’s text for example). Within that particular instance you might begin to highlight something important that will allow you to branch further out to look at larger ideas within the text as a whole. You don’t need to work this way all of the time but it helps if you have some sort of structure to your analysis because structure will keep you on track.