Strategies for deepening/expanding your interpretation:

* Free write! Putting pen to paper to write without restriction (about a quote or element from the text that’s relevant to your topic) REALLY CAN help you deepen your understanding of your own idea. This practice helps you access language and subtleties that you might otherwise miss. Start with a blank page (computer or old-fashioned notebook), and just start writing. Trust yourself! And give yourself freedom to think without feeling the pressure to think like a “writer.”
* Unpack key words in your idea/claim/topic sentence. If you refer to a “void” or an “emptiness” or a “desire for affection,” etc., take time out to wrap language around that word or phrase. Write about the concept until you have specific, concrete language that clarifies the concept. Even if you don’t end up using everything you write down, you’ll have a fuller understanding of the original meaning, and you’ll have clear, compelling language to help your reader better understand the concept, as well.
* USE “Mountain of Notes”! You can’t do this wrong! As long as you make genuine attempts for all the steps, you will build for yourself a mountain of useful language and ideas and concepts. You’ll also have identified several quotes from the text that will become your textual evidence in your essay. Once you assemble your mountain, you will need to organize the parts you use in your paper, but you can do that, too! You already have the tools and instruction you need to present a well-organized, meaningful essay. Use your mountain of notes to help you identify strong claims/ideas and to build strong cases for your ideas.