

NOTICE AND NOTE STRATEGIES

Signpost Definition	Clues to the signpost	Questions that follow	What literary element it helps readers understand
CONTRASTS & CONTRADICTIONS (CC): A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe the character doing; behavior that contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns	A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect	Why would the character act/feel this way?	*Character development *Internal conflict *Theme *Relationship between setting and plot
AHA MOMENT (AHA): A character's realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him	Phrases, usually expressing suddenness, like: "Suddenly, I understood..." "It came to me in a flash..." "The realization hit me like a lightning bolt..." "In an instant I knew..."	How might this change things?	*Character development *Internal conflict *Plot
TOUGH QUESTIONS (TQ): Questions a character raises that reveal his/her struggles and are difficult to answer	Phrases expressing serious doubt or confusion: "What could I possibly do to...?" "I couldn't imagine how I could cope with..." "How could I ever understand why she...?" "Never had I been so confused about..."	What does this question make me wonder about?	*Internal conflict *Theme *Character development

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WORDS OF THE WISER (WW): The advice or insight a wiser character, who is usually older, offers about life to the main character	The main character and another are usually off by themselves, in a quiet, serious moment, and the wiser figure shares his/her wisdom or advice in an effort to help the main character with a problem or a decision	What's the life lesson and how might it affect the character?	*Theme *Internal conflict *Relationship between the character and plot
AGAIN & AGAIN (AA): Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel	A word is repeated, sometimes used in an odd way, over and over in the story. An image reappears several times during the course of the book.	Why might the author bring this up again and again?	*Plot *Setting *Symbolism *Theme *Character development *Conflict
MEMORY MOMENT (MM): A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of the story	The ongoing flow of the narrative is interrupted by a memory that comes to the character, often taking several paragraphs to recount before we are returned to events of the present moment	Why might this memory be important?	*Character development *Plot *Theme *Relationship between the character and plot