

## Readers Rules of Notice short guide

### Noticing what is key – both explicit and implicit

#### a) Generalizations/Direct Statements of Meaning

Direct statements of principle/s – always worth noting

Direct statements of theme

Explicit statements of meaning

Direct statements of command - imperatives

Explicit questions – and implicit ones – especially bringing status quo into question – this might also have to do with noticing the conversation

Titles

#### b) Calls to Attention

##### \* Rules of placement/positionality – what's important:

Introductions

Introductions of new characters (esp. when extended, using comparison/contrast, etc.), of new situations, of ideas, of new withheld details, etc.

Conclusions

Climaxes

Turns/Surprises

Endings as especially important – difference between the beginning and end

##### \*Rules of Explicitness/What's important

A question, particularly near the beginning or the end

Physically positioned details – bold, italics, headers

Names, particularly names in a title or at the beginning of a text/section/chapter

Nicknames

Explicit Threats/warnings/promises/questions

Any time evidence is introduced with a definite article and a number, the evidence will be very important

Lists or numbers

Definite article and a number

Definite article and an intensifier or judgment (*THE GREAT Fire*)

Explicit statements of principle

Explicit orderings

Explicit generalizations

Explicit judgments

Discoveries and revelations

Recognitions

Moral choices

Character notices something or pays special attention “read through it again”

Most allusions to specific events, texts, people

Patterns and throughlines: Noticing key details about the same thing and seeing how they are connected – what do the connections imply (think and search, simple and complex implied relationships – but how to notice?)

Titles and title references – do newspaper – what conversations/essential questions are being entered?

All key detail cues - see topic comment mental model

What key details have in common = topic

What the pattern of details says about the topic = topic comment

Details that reflect or refer to the title – what is the connection?

Repetition

Connection and any kind of pattern or trajectory that seems to move through the text

Single sentence paragraphs.

### **\*Rules of Implicit Meaning – filling the gaps**

References to pre-text – what has happened before the text, signals of what knowledge are readers to bring to the text

Narrator – who is speaking and how should we think about him/her?

Intertextual references – sometimes must be noticed, sometimes not – how to separate wheat from chaff

Implied causes and causality.

### **\*Rules of Resonance: What's important**

Italics, Bold, typography, emoticons

Intensity – emotional, visual

Semantic gestures – “immediately” Suddenly, swear words, “realize”

Syntax for emphasis – inversions, it WAS (singles out event)

Deviations from any norm – cultural, social, individual, textual

Special case of symbols or archetypes

Double entendres – words or phrases with double meanings

Immediacy/directness

Climactic moments/dramatic events

Problems, trouble

Threats/warnings/promises/questions

Details that answer questions or follow up on threats/warnings/promises

Multiple meanings/word play

Causes and causality – explicit

Figurative language

Extended metaphors – connection of very unlike things

Details at climactic moments –

### **c) Rules of Rupture and Change**

Unreliable narrator

Irony

(Relationships)

Events that change relationships  
Ideas that change relationships (between people, but also between ideas)  
Ruptures of continuity, of expectations  
Tensions  
Where Multiple perspectives meet  
Silences – when you expect to hear or find out something  
Exaggeration and understatement  
Blatantly irrelevant/that which is mentioned as irrelevant  
Inappropriate behaviors and responses  
Plot direction changes  
Changes in perspective  
Close up to wide angle lens or vice versa  
Exploded moment – undue attention  
Shifts in style, sentence length  
Use of rhyme  
Neologisms  
Sound devices  
Evolutions = changes in character, setting or situation – reading along indices  
Surprises – ruptures, emotional charges, outliers, coincidences  
Surprises of when one detail is chosen when you expected another  
Ruptures in time- flashbacks, fast forwards, collapsed or exploded moments, reflections and memories  
Shifts in narrator – narrator’s reliability  
Shifts in settings  
Shifts in tone  
Shifts in text structure  
Shifts in pacing  
Shifts from standard English – foreign words, dialect  
Unexpected authorial choices  
Undue attention/extended attentions/surprising kinds of attention

**d) Rules of the reader’s response – what’s important to the reader**

Activation of prior knowledge and interests  
Intense emotional charges to anything in the text – reflect on why  
Intense personal connections – must explain why  
Intense visualization – scenes that you can really see  
Intense response to events, actions or character decisions - actions that stay with you, that you think about over time, that are disturbing, that you might even use as psychic material in your daydreaming or dreaming.  
Intense satisfactions or dissatisfactions that come from certain character actions, decisions, events, resolutions  
Intense questions that come up and make you stop and pause

Intense meanings and takeaways the reader gleans, savors, talks about and applies from the reading

Intense reflection upon one's response and attempts to explain it: why did I react that way?

### **Noticing the conversation: identifying general subjects and topics of conversation**

#### **Rules for General subjects: Noticing the conversation**

What do all the key details have in common? What do they all pertain to? Comment on?

Notice:

Titles

Headings

Subtitles

epigraphs

Call outs

Book covers

Photos and graphics

Strategy: Previewing, skimming, abstracts

Readers stance and purpose – essential questions and inquiries

#### **Rules of Intertextuality**

Intertextual positions: sequels, trilogies, series

Inside the text – beginning, middle, end, in media res

What other texts are like this?

References and allusions

References to formulas

Talk about writing, genre, process of writing.

**Rules of throughlines** – what do all the key details and events comment on? What do they all connect to?