

Notice and Note Signposts

Contrasts and Contradictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a character’s actions or words are contradictory to what he has done or contrasts what he has said all along. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why might the character be doing that?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals a change in character or is new information that will likely be important. It can help make predictions or inferences about plot, conflict, and characters and how they change.
Aha Moment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a character realizes something or comes to a new understanding about themselves or what to do about a problem. Usually seen in the form of thinking to themselves or dialogue with another character. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How might this change things?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals that a character has resolved conflict(s) or come to a new understanding of themselves. These are often related to life-lessons or themes
Tough Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A character asks themselves or a trusted friend a really difficult question that doesn’t necessarily have an answer. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What does this question make me wonder about?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals or reveals concerns (internal conflict) the character has. What you wonder about because of these questions will tell you more about conflict and help you make inferences and predictions about the character and plot.
Words of the Wiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wiser (and usually older) character stops to give the main character some advice, often in a quiet scene just between two characters. Advice might be in one sentence or it might be in a longer “lecture”. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the life-lesson or advice and how might this affect the character?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals or reveals theme(s).
Again and Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A word, phrase, situation, or image is mentioned repeatedly. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why does this keep happening again and again?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals or reveals theme(s), symbolism, and conflicts. It might also be foreshadowing what will happen later. It is used to establish a pattern that will either remain true and be important later or that will be used to break a bad pattern (helps with establishing contrasts/contradictions) that signal character change.
Memory Moments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In text:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author interrupts the forward flow of events/plot to reveal a memory or flashback to something from the past. • <u>Stop and ask yourself:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why might the memory be important—what does it reveal about the character/situation?</i> • <u>What it might signal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This signals or reveals theme(s) and conflicts and or give important character information that will be important later. Oddly, a memory moment might also be foreshadowing what will happen later.