

## READING FOR SIGNPOSTS

Signpost and Definitions	Clues to the Signpost	What Literary Element it Helps Us Understand	Anchor Questions
<b>Contrasts and Contradictions</b> A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe the character doing; behavior contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns. Also contrasts between characters or situations.	A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect	Character development Internal conflict Theme Relationship between setting and plot	Why would the character act or feel this way? How do the contrasts between characters help us understand them? How might contrasts between situations help us predict plot or conflict?
<b>Again and Again</b> 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	Plot Setting Symbolism Theme Character development Conflict	Why might the author bring this up again and again?
<b>Memory Moment</b> 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.	Character development Plot Theme Relationship between character and plot	Why might this memory be important?
<b>Aha Moment</b> 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 that..." "The realization hit me like a lightning bolt..." "In an instant I knew..."	Character development Internal conflict Plot	How might this change things?

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<b>Tough Questions</b> Questions a character raises that reveal his/her inner struggles	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...”	Internal conflict Theme Character development	What does this question make me wonder about?
<b>Words of the Wiser</b> The advice or insight a wiser character--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 wisdom or advice in an effort to help the main character with a problem or a decision	Theme Internal conflict Relationship between character and plot	What the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?