

# The Notice and Note Signposts

Signposts and Definitions	The Clues to the Signposts	Questions To Stop and Ask Yourself
<p><b>Contrasts and Contradictions:</b> A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what actually happens.</p>	<p>1) A character behaves or thinks in a way that we don't expect;</p> <p>2) An element of a setting is something that we would not expect</p>	<p>1) Why would the character act this way?</p> <p>2) What does that unexpected element mean?</p>
<p><b>An AHA! Moment:</b> A character realizes something that changes his understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.</p>	<p>Phrases or words that usually express a quick change: <i>suddenly . . .</i> <i>came to me in a flash . . .</i> <i>in an instant, I knew . . .</i></p>	<p>How might this change things?</p>
<p><b>Tough Questions:</b> Questions a character asks that reveal inner struggles.</p>	<p>Phrases suggesting doubt or confusion: <i>What could I possibly do?</i> <i>How could I ever understand . . .?</i> <i>Suddenly nothing made sense . . .</i> <i>How can I cope with . . .?</i></p>	<p>What does this question make me wonder about?</p> <p>What will the character do to solve this?</p>
<p><b>Words of the Wiser:</b> The advice another character, usually older and wiser, offers about life to the main character.</p>	<p>The main character and the other one are usually alone in a quiet, serious moment; the wiser one gives advice to help the other with a problem or decision.</p>	<p>What does the advice mean, and how might it affect the main character?</p>
<p><b>Again and Again:</b> Events, images, or words that are repeated in part or all of the story.</p>	<p>A word or phrase is used, sometimes in an odd way, over and over. An image or something physical appears several times in the course of the book.</p>	<p>Why might the author be doing this again and again?</p>
<p><b>Memory Moments:</b> A character stops and remembers something; the memory interrupts the forward progress of the story.</p>	<p>The flow of the narrative is interrupted by a memory that comes to a character, often taking up several paragraphs before we get back to the present moment.</p>	<p>Why might this memory be important?</p> <p>How does it connect to the current situation?</p>