



# NOTICE AND NOTE

A READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGY

In Notice and Note, **Kylene Beers** and **Bob Probst** introduce 6 “signposts” that alert readers to significant moments in a work of literature and encourage students to read closely. Learning first to spot these signposts and then to question them, enables readers to explore the text, any text, finding evidence to support their interpretations. In short, these close reading strategies will help your students to notice and note.

# READING SIGNPOSTS

Authors purposely put clues in their stories so that readers make inferences. These clues fall under each of these signposts:

- ❑ **Contrasts and Contradictions (C+C)**
- ❑ **Aha Moment (AHA)**
- ❑ **Tough Questions (?)**
- ❑ **Words of the Wiser (WW)**
- ❑ **Again and Again (A+A)**
- ❑ **Memory Moment (MM)**

In parenthesis, you will see our annotation note for each signpost. When reading, you can use these abbreviations to indicate an important moment in the text.

# CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS

❑ **Definition:** When a character acts in a way that is contradictory given how they normally act

❑ **Clue:** Author shows feelings or actions the reader hasn't seen before or doesn't expect



**Ask yourself:**

Why is the character doing that?

Character development

Internal conflict

Relationship between setting and plot



# AHA MOMENT

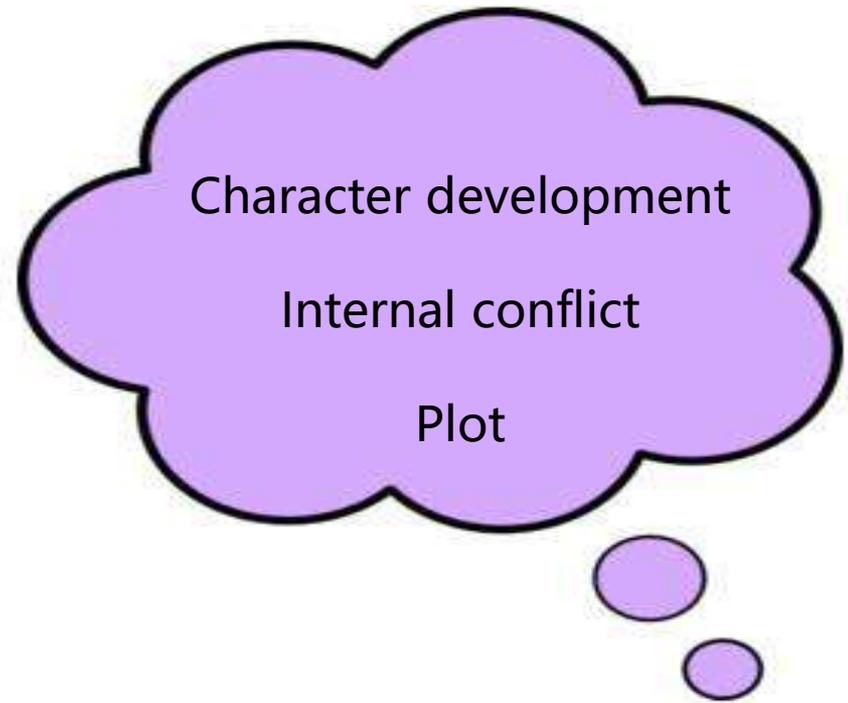
❑ **Definition:** When a character realizes or starts to realize something that changes their actions or thinking

❑ **Clue:** Characters say, “I realized,” or “I suddenly knew” or “Now I know why,” etc.



**Ask yourself:**

How might this change things?



# TOUGH QUESTIONS

❑ **Definition:** When a character asks a tough question that reveals their concerns (internal conflict).

❑ **Clue:** The character asks him or her self a question that challenges their current actions or thinking



**Ask yourself:**

What does this question make me wonder about?



# WORDS OF THE WISER

- ❑ **Definition:** A mentor, advisor, etc. gives advice or insight to the main character
- ❑ **Clue:** An older character offers a life lesson, usually in a quiet moment



**Ask yourself:**

What is the life lesson and how might it affect the character?



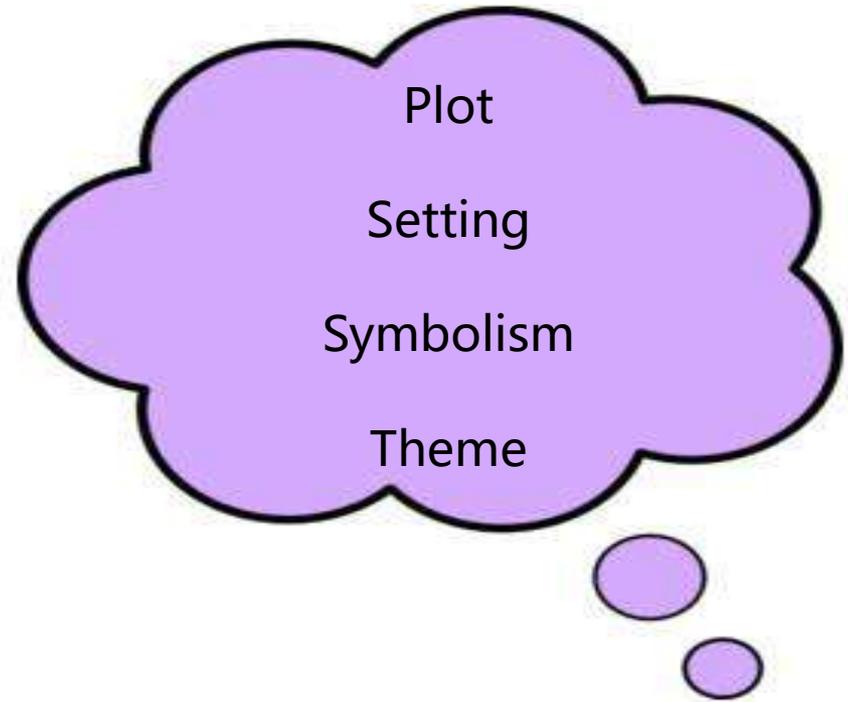
# AGAIN AND AGAIN

- ❑ **Definition:** The author keeps bringing up an idea
- ❑ **Clue:** A repeated image, phrase, or reference



**Ask yourself:**

Why does this keep showing up again and again?



# MEMORY MOMENT

❑ **Definition:** The author interrupts the flow of a story by letting the character remember something

❑ **Clue:** “I suddenly remembered”, “Thinking back”, “It was like the time when”



**Ask yourself:**

Why might this memory be important?

Relationship  
between  
character and plot

Theme

## CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS

“I apologize for inconveniencing my learning community.’ Asher ran through the standard apology phrase rapidly, still catching his breath.”

–Ch. 1, pg. 3

“I feel a little sorry for him,” Jonas said, “even though I don’t even know him. I feel sorry for anyone who is in a place where he feels strange and stupid.”

–Ch. 1, pg. 6



## AHA MOMENT

“Jonas had done it once, had shouted at his best friend, ‘That’s it, Asher! You’re released!’ when Asher’s clumsy error had lost a match for his team. He had been taken aside for a brief and serious talk by the coach, had hung his head with guilt and embarrassment, and apologized to Asher after the game.” –Ch. 1, pg. 3

# TOUGH QUESTIONS



# WORDS OF THE WISER



## AGAIN AND AGAIN

“There was a boy in his (Jonas’s) group of Elevens whose father had been released before. No one ever mentioned it; the disgrace was unspeakable. It was hard to imagine.” –Ch. 1, pg. 9

“This evening he almost would have preferred to keep his feelings hidden. But it was, of course, against the rules.” –Ch. 1, pg. 9



## AGAIN AND AGAIN

“I know there’s really nothing to worry about,’ Jonas explained, “and that every adult has been through it. I know you have, Father, and you too, Mother. But it’s the Ceremony that I’m apprehensive about. It’s almost December.” –Ch. 1, pg. 9

## MEMORY MOMENT

“Frightened was the way he (Jonas) had felt a year ago when an unidentified aircraft had overflown the community twice.” –Ch. 1, pg. 1

“Jonas grinned, remembering the morning that Asher had dashed-into the classroom, late as usual, arriving breathlessly in the middle of the chanting of the morning anthem.” –Ch. 1, pg. 3