

Notice & Note Annotation Strategy [The 6 Signposts]

←————→
Advanced English 8



Objective

SWBAT apply the “notice and note” annotation strategy to close reading of a text.

What does Notice & Note mean?

Do you ever feel **completely confused** when your teacher tells you to **annotate** a text?

How do you know what to **highlight**?

How do you know **what to write down**?

And how is this supposed to help you **understand the text**?

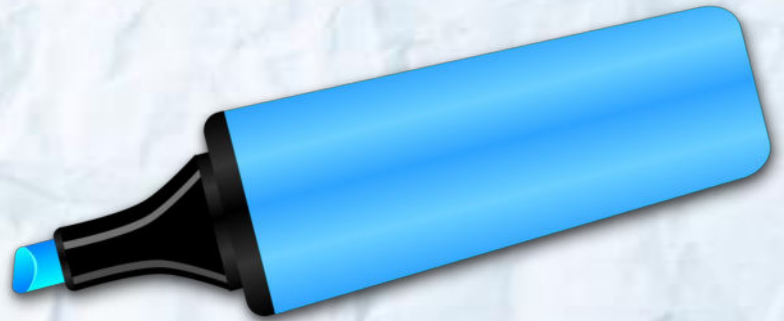
Notice & Note

Notice and note is a strategy to help you know **what to look for** when you're reading a text.



Notice & Note

Notice and note involves **6 “signposts”** that signal that there might be a clue to something important, like theme, characterization, symbolism, motif, or even tone or mood.



What are the 6 signposts?

Contrasts and Contradictions

A-ha! Moments

Tough Questions

Words of the Wiser

Again and Again

Memory Moment



Contrasts & Contradictions

A **sharp contrast** between what we would **expect** and what we **observe** the character doing; behavior that contradicts previous behavior or well-established patterns



Contrasts & Contradictions

Look for times when:

A character **behaves or thinks in a way we do not expect**, or an **element of a setting is something we would not expect**



Contrasts & Contradictions

When you notice this signpost, ask:

Why would the character act or feel this way?



Contrasts & Contradictions

Help Us Understand ...

Character development

Internal conflict

Theme

Relationship between Setting and Plot



A-ha! Moments

A **sudden realization** of something that shifts a character's actions or understanding of self, others, or the world



A-ha! Moments

Look for these or similar phrases:

“Suddenly, I realized ...”

“Now I understand ...”

“It came to me in a flash ...”

“I now knew ...”

“I finally understood that ...”

“All of sudden I knew what I had to do ...”

“Suddenly, I saw ...”

“For the first time in my life, I didn’t know ...”



A-ha! Moments

When you notice this signpost, ask:

**How might this realization
change things?**



A-ha! Moments Help Us Understand ...

Character Development

Plot

Internal Conflict

If the character figured out a **problem**,
you probably just learned about the **conflict**.

If the character understood a **life lesson**,
you probably just learned the **theme**.



Tough Questions

Questions characters raise that reveal
their inner struggles



Tough Questions

Look for phrases usually expressing **serious doubt or confusion**:

“Would could I possibly do to....?”

“I could not imagine how I could cope with....?”

“How could I ever understand why he.....?”

“Never have I been so confused about....?”



Tough Questions

When you notice this signpost, ask:

What does this question make me wonder about?



Tough Questions **Help Us Understand ...**

Character Development

Theme

Internal Conflict

The question might show **character motivation**, or might hint at a **lesson** the character is about to learn.



Words of the Wiser

The **advice or insight** about life that a wiser character, who is usually older, offers to the main character.



Words of the Wiser



Look for times when:

The main character and another character are **off by themselves** in a **quiet serious moment** and the **wiser figure shares his/her wisdom or advice** in an effort to help the main character with a problem or decision.

Words of the Wiser

When you notice this signpost, ask:

What is the life lesson, and how might this affect the character?



Words of the Wiser

Help Us Understand ...

Theme

Internal Conflict

Relationship between Character and Plot



Again & Again

Events, images, or particular words that **recur** (**repeat**) over a portion of the story.



Again & Again

You might notice:

- a **single word** that is repeated more often than you would expect, as if the author is calling special attention to it
- a **situation** that a character finds him-or-herself in over and over
- an **idea** that keeps coming up
- a **color** or a **thing** that repeatedly appears in the story



Again & Again

When you notice this signpost, ask:

Why might the author bring this up again and again?



Again & Again Helps Us Understand ...

Plot

Character

Symbolism

Motif

Theme

Setting

Conflict

ANYTIME SOMETHING
KEEPS SHOWING UP
IN A STORY, THERE IS
A VERY GOOD
REASON. IT IS NEVER
ACCIDENTAL!



Memory Moment

A **recollection** by a character that **interrupts** the forward progress of the story.

Sometimes this is in the form of a **flashback**.

Other times, it is the character's **thoughts**.



Memory Moment



Look for times when:

- the character **suddenly starts remembering** something, even right in the middle of the action
- a quiet moment when the character **thinks back** on something from his or her past
- the ongoing flow of the **narrative is interrupted** by the memory

Memory Moment

When you notice this signpost, ask:



Why might this **memory** be **important**?

What **emotions** is the character feeling about this memory?

Memory Moments

Help Us Understand ...

Character Development

Plot

Theme

Relationship between Character and Plot



When you notice these **signposts** in the text:

1. **Highlight** that part of the text.
2. Note the **abbreviation** in the margin.
3. Ask yourself the question and **write your answer** in the margin or on a post-it note.

Signpost Abbreviations

Contrasts & Contradictions CC

A-ha! Moments AM

Tough Questions TQ

Words of the Wiser WW

Again and Again AA

Memory Moment MM

WHEN YOU
NOTICE A
SIGNPOST, MARK
THE TEXT WITH
ITS INITIALS.

Let's Practice ...

As we read the **Hatchet** excerpt, what do you notice?



Again & Again

What is happening **again and again**?

Why might the author be **repeating** this?



Let's Practice ...

As we read the **Riding Freedom** excerpt, what do you notice?



Words of the Wiser

What **advice or insight** does Ebenezer give Charlotte?

What is the **life lesson**?



Let's Practice ...

As we read the **Hope Was Here** excerpt, what do you notice?



Memory Moment

What was the **memory**?



Why might it be **important**?

What **emotions** does the narrator **feel** when this memory shows up?

Let's Practice ...

As we read the **Long Walk to Water** excerpt, what do you notice?



Tough Questions

What **tough questions** is Salva asking himself?

What do Salva's questions **make you wonder about?**



Let's Practice ...

As we read the **Crash** excerpts, what do you notice?



A-ha! Moments

What are the A-ha! Moments in the excerpts?



What is the narrator realizing or figuring out?

How might these realizations change things in the story?

Let's Practice ...

As we read the “**Tuesday of the Other June**”
excerpt, what do you notice?



Contrasts & Contradictions

What are the Contrasts & Contradictions in this excerpt?

Which characters act in a way that is different from expected?

What causes them to do so?

