

Signposts

The Notice and Note Signposts and Definitions	The Clues to the Signpost	What Literary Element It Helps Readers Understand
<p>Contrasts and 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</p>	<p>A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect.</p>	<p>Character development Internal conflict Theme Relationship between setting and plot</p>
<p>Aha Moment A character's realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him</p>	<p>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. . . ."</p>	<p>Character development Internal conflict Plot</p>
<p>Tough Questions Questions a character raises that reveal his or her inner struggles</p>	<p>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. . . ."</p>	<p>Internal conflict Theme Character development</p>
<p>Words of the Wiser The advice or insight a wiser character, who is usually older, offers about life to the main character</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Theme Internal conflict Relationship between character and plot</p>
<p>Again and Again Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Plot Setting Symbolism Theme Character development Conflict</p>
<p>Memory Moment A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of the story</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Character development Plot Theme Relationship between character and plot</p>