<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signpost and Definition</th>
<th>Clues to Look for in the Text</th>
<th>Literary Element that it Helps Us Understand</th>
<th>Questions to Ask</th>
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| **CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS** | 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? |
| **Again and Again** | 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? |
| **MEMORY MOMENT** | 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? |
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<td><strong>Aha Moment</strong>&lt;br&gt;A character’s realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.</td>
<td>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...”</td>
<td>Character development&lt;br&gt;Internal conflict&lt;br&gt;Plot</td>
<td>How might this change things?</td>
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<td><strong>Tough Questions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Questions a character raises that reveal his/her inner struggles</td>
<td>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...”</td>
<td>Internal conflict&lt;br&gt;Theme&lt;br&gt;Character development</td>
<td>What does this question make me wonder about?</td>
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<td><strong>Words of the Wiser</strong>&lt;br&gt;The advice or insight a wiser character--usually older--offers about life to the main character</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Theme&lt;br&gt;Internal conflict&lt;br&gt;Relationship between character and plot</td>
<td>What the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?</td>
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