

## Literary Signposts Guide

Signpost and Definition	Clues to Look for in the Text	Literary Element that it Helps Us Understand	Questions to Ask
<p><b><i>CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS</i></b></p> <p>A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe the character doing; behavior contradicts previous behavior or well established patterns. Also contrasts between characters or situations.</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>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?</p>
<p><b><i>Again and Again</i></b></p> <p>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>Why might the author bring this up again and again?</p>
<p><b>MEMORY MOMENT</b></p> <p>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>	<p>Why might this memory be important?</p>

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<p><b>AHA MOMENT</b></p> <p>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>How might this change things?</p>
<p><b>TOUGH QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>Questions a character raises that reveal his/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>What does this question make me wonder about?</p>
<p><b>Words of the Wiser</b></p> <p>The advice or insight a wiser character--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>What the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?</p>