**OVERVIEW OF LITERARY SIGNPOSTS**

**OBJECTIVE:** Increase our Understanding of Literature Through Meaningful, Interpretive, and Evaluative Analysis, Discussion, and Presentation

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| **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.  
- A character behaves or thinks in a way we don't expect, or an element of a setting is something we would not expect.  
  Why is the character doing that? | - Character development  
- Internal conflict  
- Theme  
- Relationship between setting and plot | **CC** |
| **Aha Moment** | A character’s realization of something that shifts his actions or understanding of himself, others, or the world around him.  
- 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…”  
  How might this change things? | - Character development  
- Internal conflict  
- Plot | **Aha** |
| **Tough Questions** | Questions a character raises that reveal his or her inner struggles.  
- 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...”  
  What does this question make me wonder about? | - Internal conflict  
- Theme  
- Character development | **??** |
| **Words of the Wiser** | The advice or insight a wiser character, who is usually older, offers about life to the main character.  
- 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.  
  What’s the life lesson, and how might it affect the character? | - Theme  
- Internal conflict  
- Theme  
- Relationship between character and plot | **WW** |
| **Again and Again** | Events, images, or particular words that recur over a portion of the novel.  
- 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.  
  Why does this keep showing up again and again? | - Plot  
- Setting  
- Symbolism  
- Theme  
- Character development  
- Conflict | **AA** |
| **Memory Moment** | A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress or the story.  
- 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.  
  Why might this memory be important? | - Character development  
- Plot  
- Theme  
- Relationship between character and plot | **MM** |

Aha Moment

**Definition:** The character realizes or starts to realize something that changes thinking.

**Text clue:** Characters say “I realized” or “I suddenly knew” or “Now I know why...”

**Question:** How might this change things?

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What did I notice?

What is the Aha Moment?

What inferences can be made about why the character will do now or think now?

What are my final thoughts?

Why do you think the author has the character realize this?

What is the Aha Moment?

What inferences can be made about why the character will do now or think now?

Contrasts and Contradictions

**Definition:** The character acts in a way that is contradictory or unexpected given how he or she normally acts.

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

**Question:** Why is the character doing that?

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**Tough questions**

**Definition:** The character asks a tough question that reveals his or her concerns [internal conflict].

**Text clue:** The character asks himself or herself a difficult question.

**Question:** What does this question make me wonder about? What does it tell me about the character?

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Words of the Wiser

**Definition:** An older character (mentor, advisor, parent, etc.) gives advice or an insight to the main character.

**Text Clue:** A wiser, often older, character offers a life lesson, usually in a quiet moment.

**Question:** What’s the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?

What did I notice?

What did I notice?

What inferences can be made about why the message is important?

This advice is important in the story and in life because...

What did I notice?

What did I notice?

What inferences can be made about why the message is important?
Again and Again

**Definition:** The author keeps bringing up the same image, phrase, or reference.

**Text clue:** A repeated image, phrase, or reference.

**Question:** Why does this keep showing up again and again?

What did I notice?

What is the idea or phrase that is repeated again and again?

Why do you think the author keeps bringing up this idea?

What are my final thoughts?

What is the idea or phrase that is repeated again and again?

Why do you think the author keeps bringing up this idea?

What did I notice?

Why do you think the author keeps bringing up this idea?

**Memory Moment — Flashback**

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

**Text Clue:** "I suddenly remembered..."; "I remember..."; or "Thinking back..."

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

- What did I notice?
- What did the character remember?
- Why might the memory be important?
- What are my final thoughts?
- What did the character remember?
- Why might the memory be important?

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Title: _________________________________  Author: ___________________
Notice & Note Reading Log

Title: ____________________________
Author: __________________________
Pages Read: ________________________

Contrasts and Contradictions
What character action or feeling was unexpected?

What was unexpected about the action or feeling?

Why did the character act or feel this way?

Memory Moment
What was happening when the character recalled the memory?

What memory came to the character’s mind?

Why do you think this memory is important?

AHA MOMENT
What words told you this was going to be an Aha Moment?

What realization came to the character’s mind?

How is this realization likely to be important in the story?

TOUGH QUESTIONS
How did you know this was going to be a tough question?

What did you wonder about when you thought about the question?

How will the character’s answer affect the events in the story that follows?

Words of the Wiser
What made you think this was a Words of the Wiser moment?

What advice or insight did the wiser character share?

How do you think this will affect the plot line?

Again and Again
What keeps repeating over and over again?

Why do you think the author keeps relating this?

What does lead you to think will happen later in the story?

Author’s Purpose
Persuade  Inform  Entertain

Genre:
Fiction / Non-Fiction

Fiction / Non-Fiction

Genre:

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