

Signposts You Might Notice

Contrasts and Contradictions

When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question:

“What is the character doing that?”

Aha Moment

When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question: *“How might this change things?”*

Tough Questions

When a character asks herself a very difficult question, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question:

“What does this question make me wonder about?”

Words of the Wiser

When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question:

“What’s the life lesson and how might it affect the character?”

Again and Again

When you notice a word, phrase or situation mentioned over and over, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question:

“Why does this keep appearing or happening again and again?”

Memory Moment

When the author interrupts the action or narrative to tell you about a memory, **STOP** and ask yourself the Anchor Question:

“Why might this memory be important?”