**Signposts You Might Notice**

1. **Contrasts & Contradictions**
   - When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements.
   - Anchor Question: Why would the character act (feel) this way?

2. **Aha Moment**
   - The moment when a character realizes or understands something that until that point he had not known.
   - Anchor Question: How might this change things?

3. **Tough Questions**
   - When a character asks herself a very difficult question.
   - Anchor Question: What does this question make me wonder about?

4. **Words of the Wiser**
   - The scene in which a wiser character offers the main character advice that is helpful at this moment in the story but could also be helpful throughout life.
   - Anchor Question: What's the life lesson and how might it affect the character?

5. **Again & Again**
   - When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over.
   - Anchor Question: Why does this keep happening again and again?

6. **Memory Moment**
   - Points in a novel where a character remembers something from the past.
   - Anchor Question: Why might this memory be important?
**Tough Questions**

- How would I, the reader, feel or think in these circumstances? To refocus the student on the text, follow this with, Does the character seem to feel the same or different?
- What alternatives does the character seem to have in answering the question?
- What values will help the character make his or her choice (concern for other people, desire for great wealth, determination to appear courageous, something else)?
- What would happen if the character made this choice, instead of that one?

**Words of the Wiser (W. of W.)**

The wiser has taught this lesson to the main character. How might the wiser person change this lesson for another character?

W. of W. usually gives us insight into a problem the main character is facing—even if he or she doesn't realize it. Think about this lesson. Does it give you an idea of a problem or internal conflict the main character faces?

W. of W. are often direct—“be kind to others.” Sometimes, though, they are more indirect; they appear to be about just one thing when they are really about life in general.

Often the W. of W. signpost appears early in the book. Did that happen in this case? If so, do you think the main character will follow the advice? How might following the advice early on change the direction of the book?

Words of the Wiser are directed at the main character, but they often seem to be directed to us, the readers, as well. Is the lesson in this book one that you agree with and accept? How might it help shape your life?

**Again & Again**

- Does this repetition make you think about where or when this story takes place? If so, then it is probably giving you information about the setting.
- Does this repetition tell you something about a character's habits? If so, it's probably offering insight into the character.
- What does this signpost suggest will happen the next time our main character finds himself in a similar situation? Now you might be considering the plot.
- Does this repetition push you to think about how someone feels, or what someone wants, or what bothers someone? If so, then it is probably giving you information about conflict.
- Does the repetition make you think about a life lesson? Or is it a repetition of something said in a W. of W. moment? For instance does someone repeat that you have to be willing to stand up for what you know is right? If that's the case then it's probably helping you think about the theme.

**Memory Moment**

- Is the character remembering something as a way to provide guidance or to help him or others solve a problem? If so, it might mean that this moment gives us insight into how he will solve a conflict—internal or external.
- Is the character remembering something that obviously troubles her? If so, it probably offers us insight into an internal conflict the character faces.
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