<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signpost and Definitions</th>
<th>Clues to the Signpost</th>
<th>What Literary Element it Helps Us Understand</th>
<th>Anchor Questions</th>
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| **Contrasts and Contradictions**  
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.  
| 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**  
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 | Plot  
Setting  
Symbolism  
Theme  
Character development  
Conflict | Why might the author bring this up again and again? |
| **Memory Moment**  
A recollection by a character that interrupts the forward progress of 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. | Character development  
Plot  
Theme  
Relationship between character and plot | Why might this memory be important? |
| **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...” | Character development  
Internal conflict  
Plot | How might this change things? |
# Reading for Signposts

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tough Questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phrases expressing serious doubt or confusion:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Internal conflict</strong></td>
<td><strong>What does this question make me wonder about?</strong></td>
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<td>Questions a character raises that reveal his/her inner struggles</td>
<td>“What could I possibly do to...?”</td>
<td>Theme</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“I couldn’t imagine how I could cope with...”</td>
<td>Character development</td>
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<td>“How could I ever understand why she...?”</td>
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<td>Never had I been so confused about...”</td>
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| **Words of the Wiser**  | **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** | **Theme** | **What the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?** |
| The advice or insight a wiser character--usually older--offers about life to the main character | Internal conflict | Relationship between character and plot | |