



CONTRASTS AND CONTRADICTIONS

When you NOTICE that a character says or does something that's the opposite of (CONTRADICTS) what they have been doing...

NOTE it (**CC**) and ASK yourself:

Why is the character doing that?

The answers may help you make a PREDICTION about what will happen next...

Or help you make an INFERENCE about the PLOT or the CONFLICT of the story.



NOTICE & NOTE!

Adapted by Vic King from the excellent book (Beers & Probst, 2012).



AHA MOMENT

When you NOTICE that a character suddenly REALIZES, UNDERSTANDS, or finally FIGURES SOMETHING OUT...

NOTE it (!!) and ASK yourself:

How might this change things?

If the character figured out a PROBLEM, you probably just figured out the CONFLICT.

If the character understood a LIFE LESSON, you probably just learned the THEME.



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TOUGH QUESTIONS

When you NOTICE that the character asks himself a really difficult QUESTION...

NOTE it (??) and ASK yourself:

What does this question make me wonder about?

The answers may tell you about the CONFLICT of the story...

Or they might FORESHADOW what will happen later in the story.



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WORDS OF THE WISER

When you NOTICE a character (probably older and wiser) take the main character aside and give serious ADVICE...

NOTE it (**WW**) and ASK yourself:

What's the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?

Whatever the lesson is, you've probably found a THEME of the story.



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AGAIN AND AGAIN

When you NOTICE a WORD, PHRASE, OBJECT, or SITUATION mentioned over and over...

NOTE it (**AA**) and ASK yourself:

Why does this keep showing up?

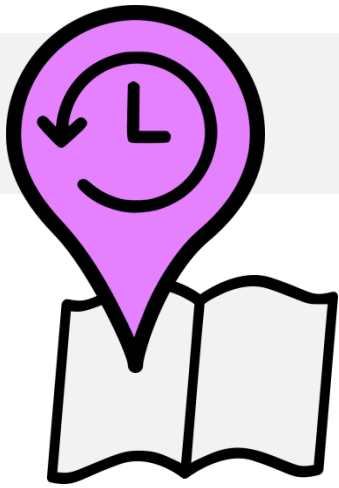
The answers may tell you about the THEME and CONFLICT of the story...

Or they might FORESHADOW what will happen later in the story.



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MEMORY MOMENT

When you NOTICE that the author interrupts the action to tell you a MEMORY...

NOTE it (**MM**) and ASK yourself:

Why might this memory be important?

The answers may tell you about the **THEME** and **CONFLICT** of the story...

Or they might **FORESHADOW** what will happen later in the story.



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