



Notice & Note



When you're reading and a character says or does something that's opposite (contradicts) what you expect them to do...you should stop and ask yourself:

“Why is the character doing that?”

The answer could help you make a prediction or make an inference about the plot and conflict.



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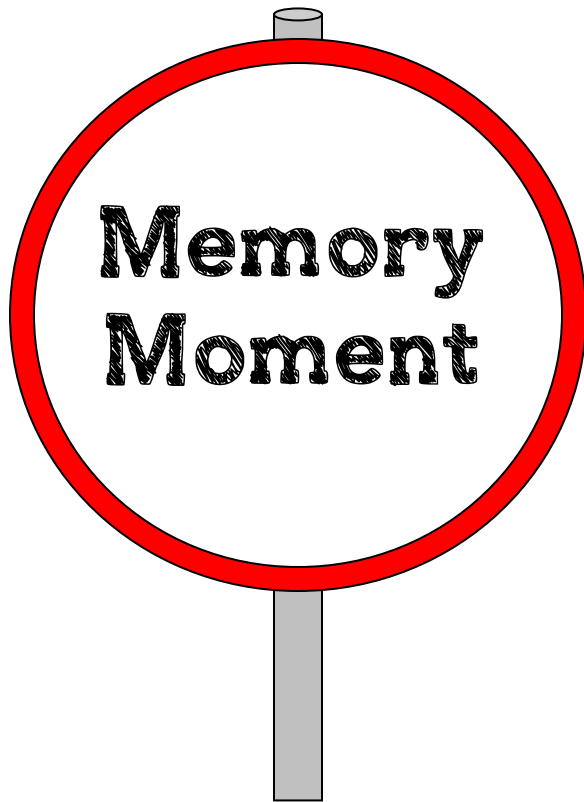
When you're reading and you notice a word, phrase, object, or situation mentioned over and over again...you should ask yourself:

“Why does this keep showing up again and again?”

The answers will tell you about the theme and conflict, or they might foreshadow what will happen later.



Notice & Note



When you're reading and the author interrupts the action to flashback to the past and tell you a memory...you should ask yourself:

“Why might this memory be important?”

The answers will tell you about the theme, conflict, or might foreshadow what will happen later in the story.



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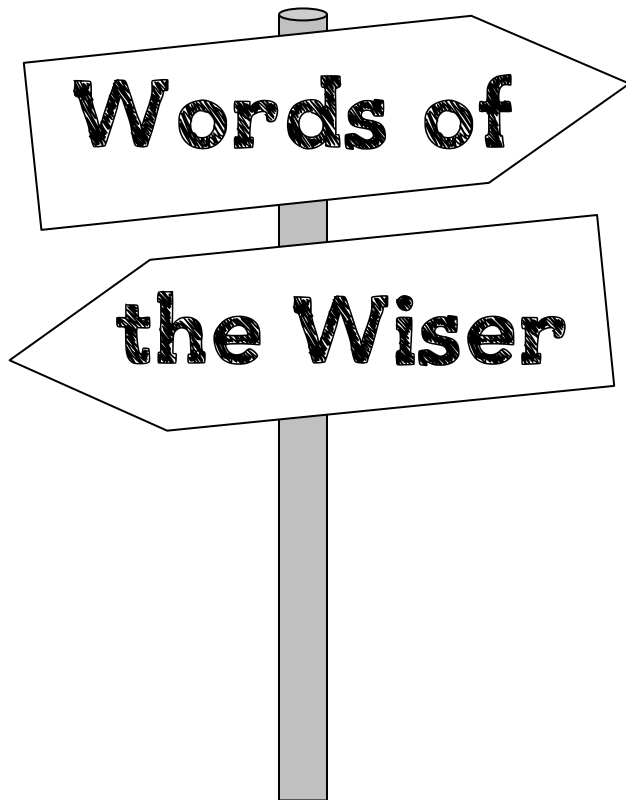
When you're reading and suddenly a character realizes, understands, or finally figures something out...you should stop and ask yourself:

“How might this change things?”

- If the character figured out a problem, you probably just learned the conflict.
- If the character understood a life lesson, you probably just learned the theme.



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When you're reading and a character (who's probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and gives serious advice...you should stop 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 for the story.



Notice & Note



When you're reading and the character asks himself a really difficult question...you should stop and ask yourself:

“What does this question make me wonder about?”

The answer will tell you about the conflict and might give you ideas about what will happen later in the story.