

NOTICE & NOTE

The question always includes what effect did this have on the story or why do you think the author included that?



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: "Where in the text does the unexpected event or statement show up?" "What was unexpected about the action/feeling?" and "Why is the character doing that?" (Inferences)

Aha Moment

When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something, STOP and ask:

"What words told you this was going to be an 'aha' moment?" "What realization came to the character's mind or what might the character do or think now?" "How might this change things?" (Inferences)

Tough Questions

When a character asks herself a very difficult question, STOP

and ask: "How did you know this was going to be a tough question?" "What did you wonder about when you thought about the question?" "How is this question important to the story, how do you think the character will answer it and how will the answer affect the events that follow?" (Inferences)

Words of the Wiser

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

"What did you see that told you this was going to be a WOW moment?" "What advice or insight did the wiser character share?" "What's the life lesson and how might it affect the character?" "What lesson did the narrator realize and what prompted this insight?" (Inferences)

Again & Again

When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, STOP and ask:

"What did you find that keeps coming up over and over?" "Why do you think the author keeps repeating this word, phrase, image, idea, or situation?" "What does this repetition lead you to think might happen later in the story?" (Inferences)

Memory Moment

When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask:

"What memory came to the character's mind?" "What was happening when the character recalled the memory?" "Why might this memory be important to the character or the story?" (Inferences)

Additional Elements to Notice:

Diction (word choices, phraseology—a manner of expressing ideas):

Syntax (Sentence construction, arrangements of words, grammar)

Sensory language (words/phrases that appeal to the senses)

Literary techniques (identify & tell how and why they are used--purpose)

Feelings/Emotions (identify & tell how the author revealed them)

Important sections (foreshadowing, connection to others, etc.)

Title and Setting (significance)

Motifs (recurring element with symbolic significance in a story)

Themes (universal topic of the story or discussion)

Dialogue With TEXT!

This list provides additional ways to engage with text?

Dialogue Process:

1. Read the text and reflect on it for a moment.
2. What is your first reaction or response to the text?
3. What thoughts, feelings or emotions did you have as you read? Describe or explain briefly.
4. What did you see happening in the text? Paraphrase and retell event briefly. Are there differences in the paraphrasing (yours and your partner's)?
5. What memory does the text call to mind—of people, places, events, sights, smells, or even something more ambiguous (feelings, attitudes)?
6. What idea or thought was suggested by the text?
7. What is the most important word in the text? What other word could the author have chosen? Why do you think the author chose the one in the text?
8. What was the most powerful line or phrase in the text? What purpose did that line serve?
9. What sort of person do you imagine the author of this text to be? What did you think the author wanted you to learn or feel as a result of this selection? Is the author trying to persuade you to do something after reading this? If so, how did you know?
10. Did you feel involved in the text or distant from it?
11. Was the text interesting? Why or Why not? What graphical elements were provided, if any? What purpose did they serve?
12. How did your understanding of the text differ from that of your discussion partner? In what ways was it similar?
13. How did your understanding of the text or your feelings about it change as you talked?
14. Does this text call to mind anything else you have seen or heard (any genre)? What was the connection you saw between the two?
15. What did you observe or learn about your discussion partner as the talk about the text progressed?
16. If you were asked to write about this text, on what would you focus? Would you write about some association or memory, some aspect of the text itself, about the author, or some other matter?

CONCEPT CIRCLE MAP WITH FRAME

