

# notice and notes signposts

**notice and notes signposts** are essential tools in literary analysis and reading comprehension, designed to help readers recognize significant moments in a text. These signposts highlight specific narrative techniques and elements that authors use to engage readers and convey deeper meanings. By identifying and understanding notice and notes signposts, readers gain insights into character development, plot progression, themes, and the author's craft. This article explores the concept of notice and notes signposts, their types, and how they can be effectively used in educational settings. Additionally, it discusses strategies for teaching these signposts to enhance critical reading skills. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of notice and notes signposts and their practical applications in reading instruction.

- Understanding Notice and Notes Signposts
- Types of Notice and Notes Signposts
- Importance of Notice and Notes Signposts in Reading
- Teaching Strategies for Notice and Notes Signposts
- Examples of Notice and Notes Signposts in Literature

## Understanding Notice and Notes Signposts

**Notice and notes signposts** are specific literary cues that alert readers to important moments within a text. These signposts serve as markers that indicate when a reader should pause and reflect on the significance of a particular passage. Developed as part of reading comprehension frameworks, they help readers actively engage with the text and deepen their understanding. Recognizing these signposts enables readers to analyze how the author constructs meaning and to interpret the narrative with greater insight.

Notice and notes signposts often prompt readers to ask critical questions about the text, such as why a character acts in a certain way or what a sudden change in the story might signify. This active engagement fosters higher-level thinking and improves overall literacy skills. In educational contexts, teaching students to identify these signposts encourages close reading and analytical discussions.

## Types of Notice and Notes Signposts

There are several commonly recognized types of notice and notes signposts that readers should be aware of. Each signpost corresponds to a specific narrative technique or moment that is crucial for

understanding the text's deeper layers. The six primary signposts include:

1. **Contrasts and Contradictions:** Moments when a character acts in a way that conflicts with their usual behavior or expectations.
2. **Aha Moment:** When a character suddenly realizes something important that changes their understanding.
3. **Tough Questions:** Instances where a character asks a difficult question that reveals inner conflict or uncertainty.
4. **Words of the Wiser:** When a character offers advice or insight that reflects greater knowledge or experience.
5. **Again and Again:** Repetition of words, phrases, or situations that highlight a significant theme or idea.
6. **Memory Moment:** When the narrative pauses to reveal a flashback or memory that sheds light on a character or event.

Understanding these types allows readers to systematically approach a text and recognize the author's techniques for storytelling and thematic development.

## Importance of Notice and Notes Signposts in Reading

The use of **notice and notes signposts** is vital for enhancing reading comprehension and literary analysis. These signposts guide readers to key moments that demand attention and interpretation, making the reading experience more interactive and meaningful. They help readers:

- Identify pivotal moments in the plot or character arcs.
- Understand underlying themes and messages.
- Develop critical thinking and inferential skills.
- Engage more deeply with complex texts.
- Improve retention and recall of literary elements.

By training readers to spot these signposts, educators can promote a more analytical and thoughtful approach to reading, which is essential for academic success and lifelong literacy.

# Teaching Strategies for Notice and Notes Signposts

Incorporating **notice and notes signposts** into reading instruction requires deliberate and effective teaching strategies. Educators can use various methods to help students recognize and analyze these signposts, including:

- **Explicit Instruction:** Clearly define each signpost and provide examples from familiar texts.
- **Guided Practice:** Engage students in identifying signposts through class discussions and worksheets.
- **Modeling:** Demonstrate thinking aloud while reading to show how to notice and interpret signposts.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Encourage group work where students share observations and insights about signposts.
- **Assessment and Feedback:** Use quizzes, writing assignments, and projects to evaluate understanding and provide constructive feedback.

These strategies help students internalize the concept of notice and notes signposts, making it a natural part of their reading process.

## Examples of Notice and Notes Signposts in Literature

Applying **notice and notes signposts** to real literary texts illustrates their practical value. Consider the following examples:

- **Contrasts and Contradictions:** In a novel where a brave character suddenly shows fear, signaling a turning point in their development.
- **Aha Moment:** A protagonist understanding a crucial truth about their situation, which propels the plot forward.
- **Tough Questions:** A character questioning their own motives or decisions, revealing internal conflict.
- **Words of the Wiser:** A mentor figure offering advice that influences the main character's choices.
- **Again and Again:** Recurring symbols or phrases that emphasize the theme of loss or hope.
- **Memory Moment:** Flashbacks that provide background and context to current events in the

narrative.

Recognizing these signposts enriches the reading experience by uncovering layers of meaning and enhancing interpretive skills.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are 'Notice and Note' signposts in literature?**

'Notice and Note' signposts are specific literary elements or techniques that authors use to highlight important moments in a text, helping readers to engage more deeply and think critically about the story.

### **Who developed the 'Notice and Note' signposts strategy?**

The 'Notice and Note' signposts strategy was developed by Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst, educators and authors focused on reading comprehension and literacy.

### **How many 'Notice and Note' signposts are there and what are they?**

There are six 'Notice and Note' signposts: Contrasts and Contradictions, Aha Moment, Tough Questions, Words of the Wiser, Again and Again, and Memory Moment.

### **What does the 'Contrasts and Contradictions' signpost indicate?**

'Contrasts and Contradictions' signpost occurs when a character acts in a way that is unexpected or different from their usual behavior, signaling a need to pay attention to character development or plot shifts.

### **How can the 'Aha Moment' signpost help readers understand a story?**

The 'Aha Moment' signpost highlights when a character realizes or understands something important, which can reveal key themes or turning points in the narrative.

### **What is the significance of the 'Tough Questions' signpost?**

The 'Tough Questions' signpost points to moments when a character asks difficult questions, reflecting internal conflict or important decisions that drive the plot forward.

## **Why is the 'Words of the Wiser' signpost important in analyzing texts?**

The 'Words of the Wiser' signpost occurs when a character offers advice or insight, often providing a lesson or theme that is crucial to understanding the story's message.

## **How does the 'Again and Again' signpost function in literature?**

The 'Again and Again' signpost draws attention to repeated words, phrases, or situations, which can emphasize a theme, character trait, or important plot element.

## **What does the 'Memory Moment' signpost reveal about a character or plot?**

The 'Memory Moment' signpost happens when a character recalls a past event, giving readers background information that helps explain motivations or foreshadows future events.

## **How can teachers use 'Notice and Note' signposts to improve student reading skills?**

Teachers can use 'Notice and Note' signposts to guide students in identifying key moments in texts, promoting critical thinking, deeper comprehension, and meaningful classroom discussions about literature.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading*

This book provides educators with practical strategies to help students engage in close reading. It introduces the six signposts that signal important moments in a text, facilitating deeper comprehension. The resource is rich with examples and lesson ideas to support student understanding and analysis.

### *2. Reading Nonfiction Notice & Note Stances and Signposts*

Focused on nonfiction texts, this book adapts the Notice and Note signposts to informational reading. It helps students identify key moments that reveal the author's purpose, claims, and evidence. Teachers will find tools to foster critical thinking and enhance students' nonfiction literacy skills.

### *3. Notice & Note: Strategies for Close Reading, Grades 3-8*

Designed for upper elementary and middle school students, this guide offers age-appropriate approaches to teaching signposts. It emphasizes interactive lessons and discussions that promote engagement with complex texts. The book supports diverse learners in developing analytical reading habits.

### *4. Notice and Note: Teaching Signposts to Enhance Reading Comprehension*

This resource outlines how to introduce and implement signposts across various genres. It provides

step-by-step guidance for educators to scaffold students' identification and interpretation of textual clues. The book also includes assessment ideas to monitor progress in close reading skills.

#### 5. *Notice and Note for English Learners*

Tailored for English language learners, this book modifies the Notice and Note framework to support language development. It integrates vocabulary-building and language acquisition strategies with signpost instruction. Teachers will find culturally responsive methods to make close reading accessible to ELL students.

#### 6. *Notice and Note: Using Signposts to Teach Reading in Middle School*

This title focuses specifically on middle school classrooms, offering practical lesson plans centered on signposts. It addresses common challenges faced by adolescents and provides ways to motivate and engage reluctant readers. The book emphasizes critical thinking and textual evidence skills.

#### 7. *Notice & Note: A Guide to Teaching Literary Signposts*

A comprehensive guide that delves into each of the six literary signposts with detailed explanations and examples. It includes reproducible student handouts and graphic organizers to support instruction. The resource is ideal for teachers seeking to deepen their understanding of close reading techniques.

#### 8. *Notice and Note: Signposts for Reading Fiction and Informational Texts*

This book bridges the gap between fiction and nonfiction by applying signposts to both text types. It encourages students to think analytically regardless of genre, enhancing overall reading comprehension. The book offers diverse strategies to adapt signposts for various classroom contexts.

#### 9. *Notice and Note: Supporting Struggling Readers Through Signposts*

Focused on intervention, this resource helps educators use signposts to support struggling readers. It provides targeted strategies to build confidence and improve comprehension skills. The book includes assessment tools and differentiated instruction ideas to meet individual student needs.

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