



*Notice & Note
Fiction*

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,

“Why is the character doing that?”

The answer will help you make predictions and draw inferences about the plot and conflict.

Words of the Wiser

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

“What’s the life lesson and how might it affect the character?”

This lesson is probably the theme of the story.

Aha Moment

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

“How might this change things?”

If it is about a problem, it tells you something about the conflict; if it is a life lesson, it tells you something about the theme.

Again and Again

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

“Why does this keep happening again and again?”

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

Memory Moment

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

“Why might this memory be important?”

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

Tough Questions

When a character asks himself a very difficult question, **STOP** and ask yourself,

“What does this question make me wonder about?”

The answer will tell you about the conflict, and help you think about what might happen later in the story.



Notice & Note
Nonfiction

Contrasts and Contradictions

When you're reading and the author shows you a difference between what you know and what is happening in the text, or a difference in the text, **STOP** and ask yourself:

"What is the difference, and why does it matter?"

Answering the question will help you see details that show you main ideas, compare and contrast, author's purpose, inference / generalizations, and cause and effect.

Word Gaps

When you're reading and you notice the author uses a word or phrase you don't know, STOP and ask yourself:

"Do I know this word from some place else?"

"Does this seem like technical talk for experts about this topic?"

"Can I find clues in the sentence to help me understand the word?"

Answering the question will help you decide if you need to look the word up or if you need to keep reading for more information / look for context clues.

Numbers and Stats

When you're reading and you notice specific numbers, number words, or amounts, STOP and ask yourself:

"Why did the author use those numbers or amounts?"

Answering the question will help you come to a conclusion, make a comparison, see details, make inferences, and/or find facts or recognize evidence.

Quoted Words

When you're reading and you notice the author quoted a voice of authority, a personal perspective, or cited other's words, **STOP** and ask yourself:

"Why did the author quote or cite this person?"

Answering the question will tell you the author's point-of-view, author's purpose, the difference between facts and opinions, and/or how to make a generalization.

Extreme / Absolute Language

When you're reading and you notice the author uses language that leaves no doubt, exaggerates, or pushes the limit, **STOP** and ask yourself:

“Why did the author say it like that?”

The answer will tell you something about the author's point-of-view and purpose. Or, you might realize the author is exaggerating to make you think a certain way.