|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fiction Sign Posts** | **Nonfiction Sign Posts** |
| **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 yourself, “*Why is the character doing that”*** | **Contrasts and Contradictions**  **When the writer presents something that contradicts what you know or think, or when the writer shows you a sharp contrast between people, groups, or ideas, STOP and ask, *“What does this make me wonder about?”*** |
| **Aha Moment**  **When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something, STOP and ask yourself, “*How might this change things?*** | **Absolute or Extreme Words**  **When the author makes a statement that allows for no interpretation or seems unreasonable, STOP and ask, *“Why did the author use this language?”*** |
| **Tough Questions**  **When a character asks herself a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, “*What does this a question make me wonder about?*** | **Numbers and Stats**  **When the author uses specific numbers or statistical information, STOP and ask, *“Why did the author use these numbers?”*** |
| **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?”*** | **Quoted Words**  **When the author chooses to quote someone, STOP and ask, “*Why was this person quoted, and what did the quote add?”*** |
| **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?*** | **Word Gaps**  **When the author uses a word or phrase you don’t know, STOP and ask, “*Does this look like a word that’s only used with this topic? Would I know this word in another* place? Do I see any clues that might help me figure it out?** |
| **Memory Moment**  **When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask yourself, “*Why might this memory be important?*** |  |