



Notice and Note



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

STOP and ask

“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.



Notice and Note



When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something,

STOP and ask

“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**.



Notice and Note



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.



Notice and Note



When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory,

STOP and ask

“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.



Notice and Note



When a character asks himself a very difficult question,

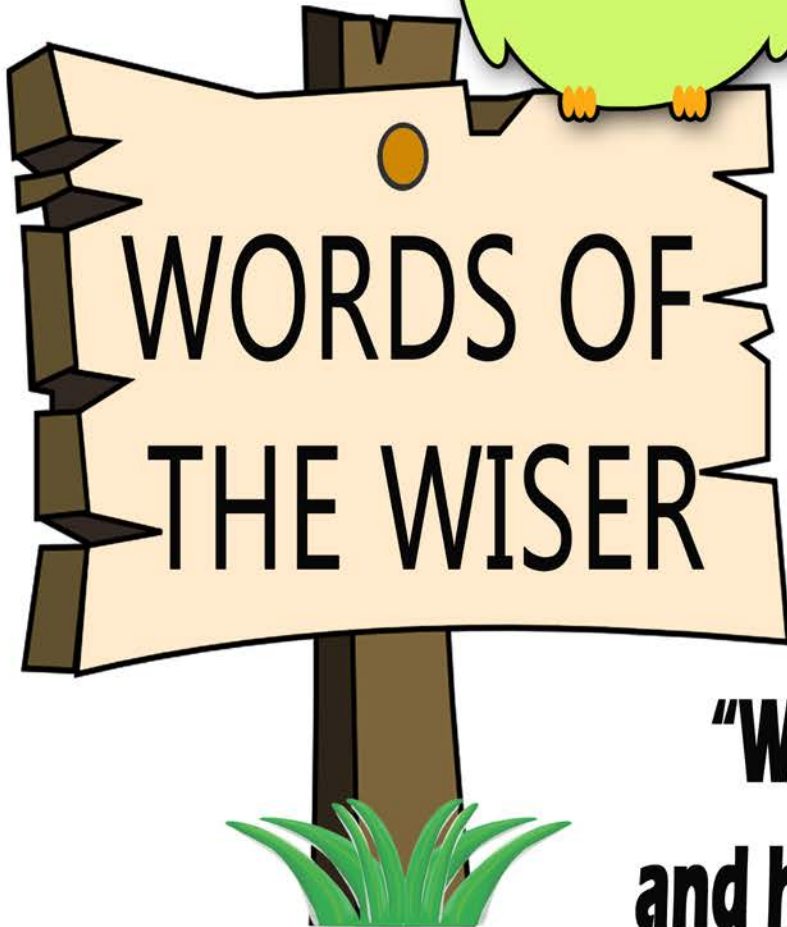
STOP and ask

“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 and Note



When a character
(who is 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