

Name:

Answer Key

Date:

Hour:

Signpost Quiz Study Guide

Section 1: Signpost Definitions

In the following section, please write each signpost's definition, the question you should ask yourself upon finding it, and the literary concepts/terms it points you towards.

Signpost	Definition	Question	Literary Concept/Term
Memory Moment	the author interrupts the action to tell about a character's memory	Why might this memory be important?	theme conflict foreshadowing
Contrast & Contradiction	when a character does something that contrasts from what you expect.	Why is the character doing that?	character development conflict
Tough Question	when a character asks him/herself a really difficult question	What does this question make me wonder about?	conflict foreshadowing
Words of the Wiser	when an older, wiser character takes the main character aside to offer serious advice.	What is the life lesson and how might it affect the character?	theme
Again & Again	a word, phrase, or object, or situation mentioned again + again throughout the story	Why does this keep showing up again and again?	conflict, theme, symbolism, foreshadowing
Aha Moment	a character realizes, understands, or finally figures something out	How might this change things?	conflict theme

Section 2: Literary Concepts/Terms Definitions

In this section, please write down a definition of each of the following literary concepts we've been discussing in class.

Plot - storyline or sequence of events.

Conflict - the main problem $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{internal conflict} = \text{struggle within a character} \\ \text{external conflict} = \text{struggle with an outside force.} \end{array} \right.$

Theme - what the story shows us that is true about life (life lesson).

Foreshadowing - hints about the outcome of the story.

Symbolism - an object that represents an idea or feeling in the story.

Implicit Question - what the reader thinks the character is trying to decide because of clues in the text.

Explicit Question - the question is literally "right there" in the text.



Section 3: Signpost Applications

In the following section, write down an example or two of each signpost. It could be an example from a book, movie, tv show, or short story that we read in class!

- Memory Moment - "Thank You, Ma'am" - Mrs. Jones remembers she was young + made mistakes once, too.
- Contrast & Contradiction - "The Tell-Tale Heart" - The narrator kills the man who has only shown kindness toward him.
- Tough Question - "Thank You, Ma'am" - Roger wonders if he should stay or go.
- Words of the Wiser - "Thank You Ma'am" - Mrs. Jones tells Roger to behave himself from now on.
- Again & Again - ~~repeated again~~ "All Summer in a Day" - Both the sun and the rain are mentioned again and again.
- Aha Moment - "All Summer in a Day" - The kids remember they've locked Margot in the closet and feel ashamed of how they treated her.

Section 4: Short Story Review

In this section, please write a brief summary of the following short stories that we read in class. For the quiz, you will need to know what happened in the story, some of the signposts we found in each story, and what conflicts or themes are present in the story.

Short Story	Brief Plot Summary	Important Signposts Present	Conflict(s)	Theme(s)
 "All Summer in a Day"	On planet Venus, Margot is the only classmate who has seen the sun (on Earth). Her classmates lock her up, causing her to miss her chance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> memory moment contrasts & contradictions again & again 	external Margot vs. the kids internal the kids vs. their guilt @ end.	People can be cruel to someone who is different.
 "Thank You, Ma'am"	Mrs. Jones befriends a boy (Roger) who tried to steal her purse. She feeds him dinner, gives him \$10., and offers a life lesson.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tough question words of the wiser memory moment contrast & contr. 	external Mrs. J. vs. Roger internal Roger vs. himself - to trust or not?	People who take time to care can make a positive impact.
"The Tell-Tale Heart"	The narrator, who tries to convince us he's not "mad," murders an old man because the man's eye, he says, haunts him. The narrator confesses his crime at the end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> again + again aha moment contrast + contr. 	external The narrator vs. old man internal The narrator vs. himself (insanity; guilt)	People Guilt is a powerful force.