



CONTRASTS & CONTRADICTIONS

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Anchor Question:
Why would the character act (feel) this way?



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The moment when a character realizes or understands something that until that point he had not known.

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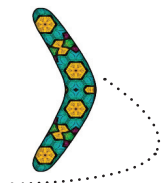
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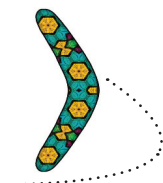
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AGAIN & AGAIN

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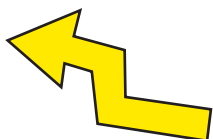
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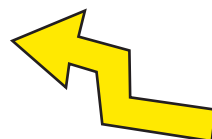
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MEMORY MOMENT

Points in a novel where a character remembers something from the past.

Anchor Question:
Why might this memory be important?



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Points in a novel where a character remembers something from the past.

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Contrasts and Contradictions

- Does this contradiction show us a new side of the character's personality? If so, then it may be showing you that the character has been hiding something from us, or it may be revealing how the character is changing. How did it change your opinion of the character?
- Does this contrast tell us anything about the differences between individuals or groups? If so, you're probably seeing the conflict that is arising in the story.
- Is the contrast between what you would expect to see in the place portrayed and what the author actually shows you? If so, it may be revealing some unique feature of the setting.
- Is the contrast between what the character expects to find or achieve and what he or she actually does discover or accomplish? If so we may be learning about the theme of the book.
- Is the contradiction between what the character says and what she does? Is it between her speech or actions at one point in the story and her behavior at another time? If so, we are learning something about her character and probably about her inner conflicts.
- Does the contradiction show the character making an important decision or doing something that surprises you? Try completing this statement: Once I saw (character's name) do _____, then I knew that he/she had learned this lesson: _____. If you can do that, then the contrast or contradiction that you noticed is probably showing you something about the theme.

Aha Moments *(distinguish among three kinds)*

- The first is that moment in which the character finally realizes what his problem is: "I suddenly realized that they were never going to accept me into their circle."
- The second is that moment in which the character sees the pathway to the resolution of the conflict or the solution of the problem: "I finally saw that I would have to find a way to be happy living my own life apart from the 'in group.'"
- The third is that moment when the character comes to a broader understanding that might be seen as a lesson for life and possibly the theme of the book: "At last I understood that real happiness came from living up to your own principles and not simply following the crowd."

Tough Questions

- How would I, the reader, feel or think in these circumstances? To refocus the student on the text, follow this with, Does the character seem to feel the same or different?
- What alternatives does the character seem to have in answering the question?
- What values will help the character make his or her choice (concern for other people, desire for great wealth, determination to appear courageous, something else)?
- What would happen if the character made this choice, instead of that one?

Words of the Wiser (W. of W.)

- The wiser has taught this lesson to the main character. How might the wiser person change this lesson for another character?
- W. of W. usually gives us insight into a problem the main character is facing—even if he or she doesn't realize it. Think about this lesson. Does it give you an idea of a problem or internal conflict the main character faces?
- W. of W. are often direct—"be kind to others." Sometimes, though, they are more indirect; they appear to be about just one thing when they are really about life in general.
- Often the W. of W. signpost appears early in the book. Did that happen in this case? If so, do you think the main character will follow the advice? How might following the advice early on change the direction of the book?
- Words of the Wiser are directed at the main character, but they often seem to be directed to us, the readers, as well. Is the lesson in this book one that you agree with and accept? How might it help shape your life?

Again & Again

- Does this repetition make you think about where or when this story takes place? If so, then it is probably giving you information about the setting.
- Does this repetition tell you something about a character's habits? If so, it's probably offering insight into the character.
- What does this signpost suggest will happen the next time our main character finds himself in a similar situation? Now you might be considering the plot.
- Does this repetition push you to think about how someone feels, or what someone wants, or what bothers someone? If so, then it is probably giving you information about conflict.
- Does the repetition make you think about a life lesson? Or is it a repetition of something said in a W. of W. moment? For instance does someone repeat that you have to be willing to stand up for what you know is right? If that's the case then it's probably helping you think about the theme.

Memory Moment

- Is the character remembering something as a way to provide guidance or to help him or others solve a problem? If so, it might mean that this moment gives us insight into how he will solve a conflict—internal or external.
- Is the character remembering something that obviously troubles her? If so, it probably offers us insight into an internal conflict the character faces.

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