

Character Signposts to Note and Notice
Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston

- Read the description of the following signposts, and then as you read through the novel, find TWO examples for each. Make sure you note which character you are referring to. You do NOT have to write a 'book' for each, but make sure you provide more than just summary. Get to analysis. Think about WHY things happen and how the author is manipulating the characters and story for effect and meaning. **Avoid looking at any 'Spark Notes' or help type material because those words and thoughts can creep into your writing. When school starts, this assignment will open up in Canvas, and you will transfer your writing into the assignment posted. 'Turn it In' will be used, to check for plagiarism. To avoid any issues, just use your own brain, your own thoughts.**

1. 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 that character doing that?" The answer will help you make predictions and draw inferences about the plot of conflict.

Example #1

Example #2

2. Words of the Wiser:

When a character (sometimes older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, STOP and ask, “What’s the life lesson trying to be conveyed here and how might it affect the character?” Is this one of the developing themes of the story?

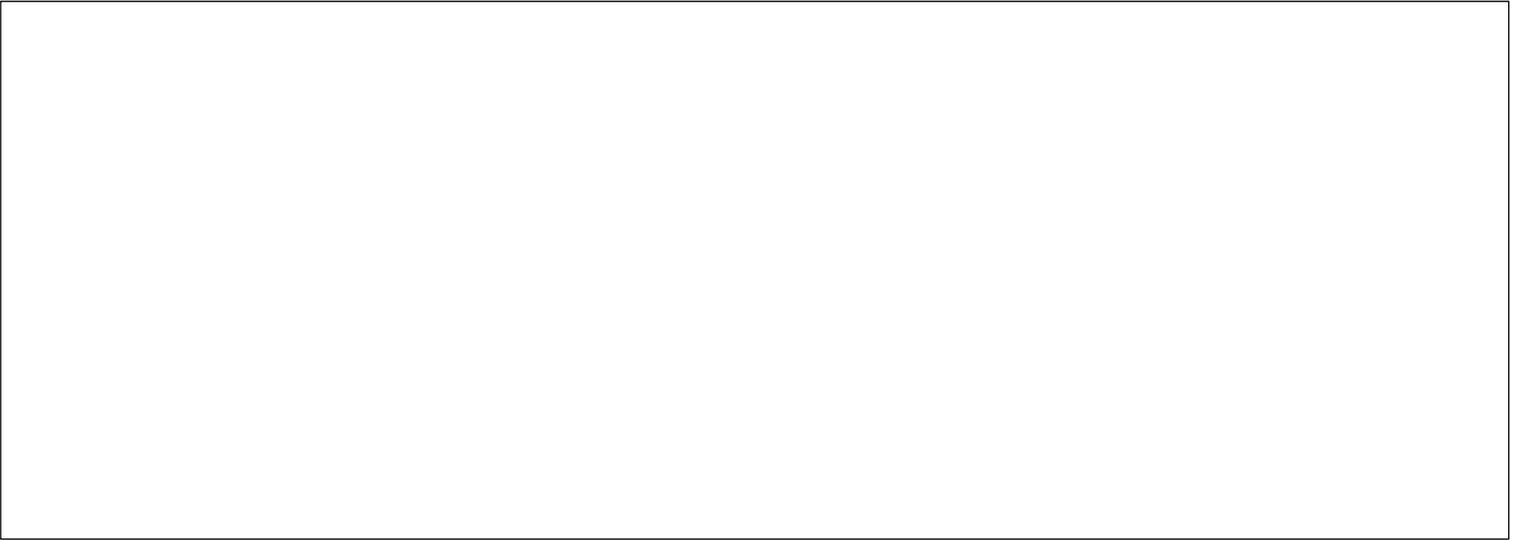
Example #1

Example #2

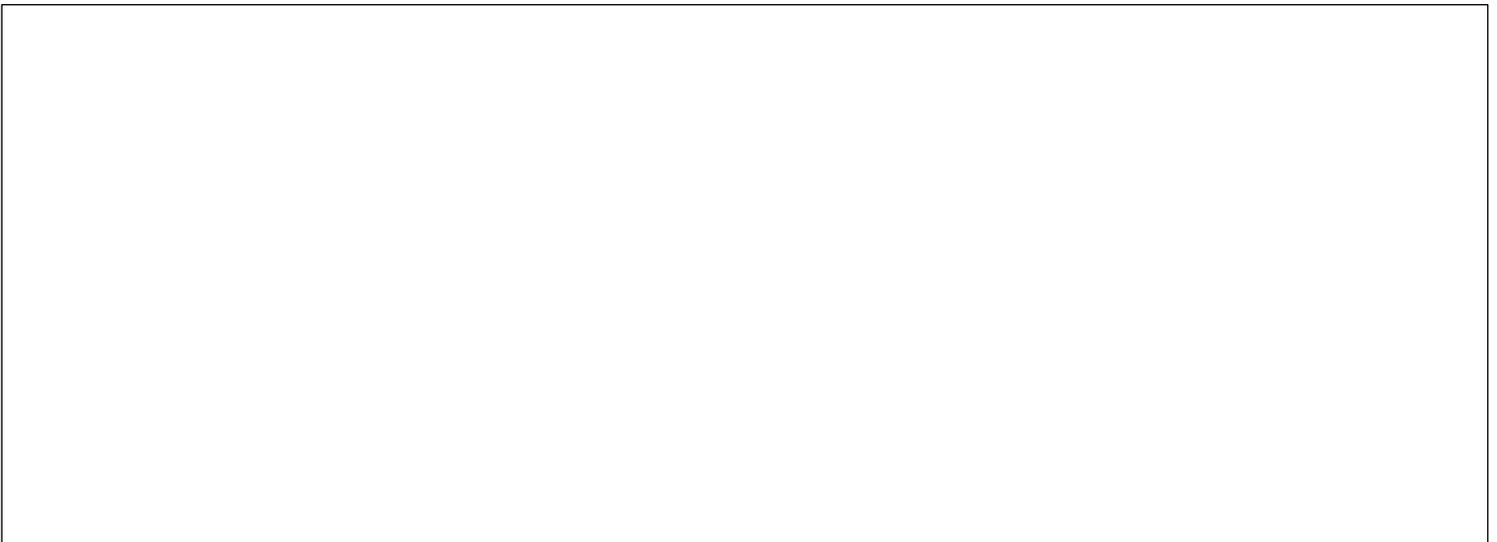
3. Aha! Moment:

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

Example #1



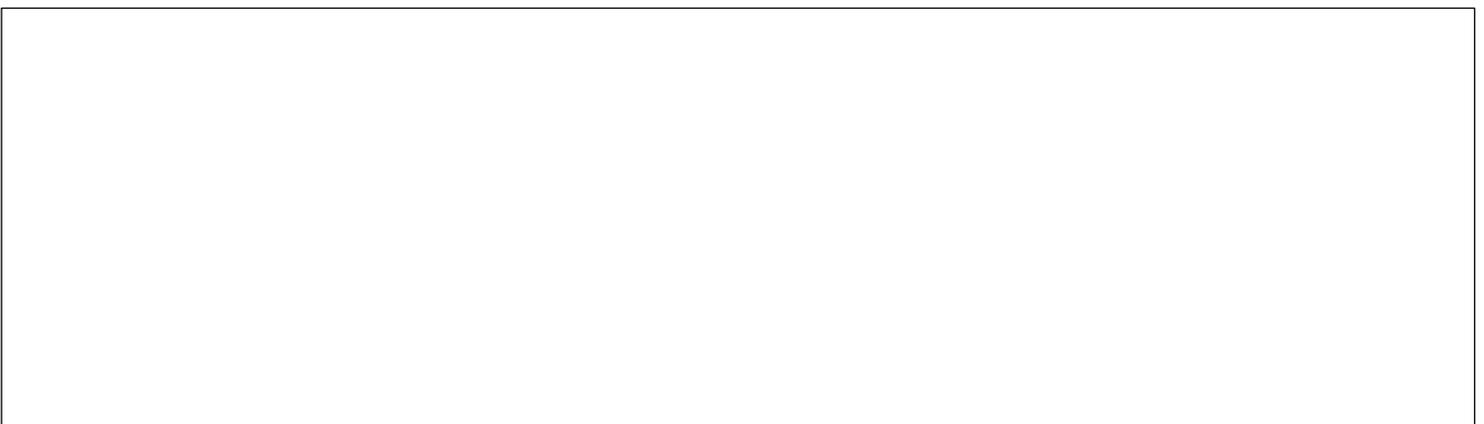
Example #2



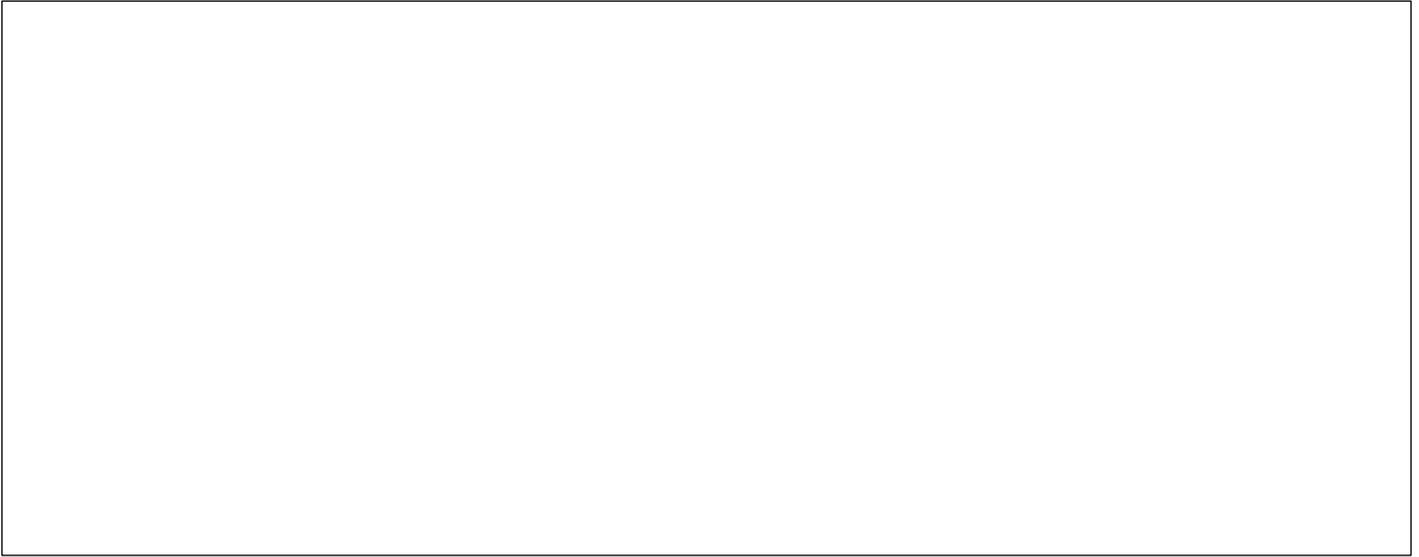
4. Again and Again:

When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned repeatedly, STOP and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening again and again?" The answer will tell you more about theme and conflict, or perhaps foreshadow what might happen later in the story. Which is it?

Example #1



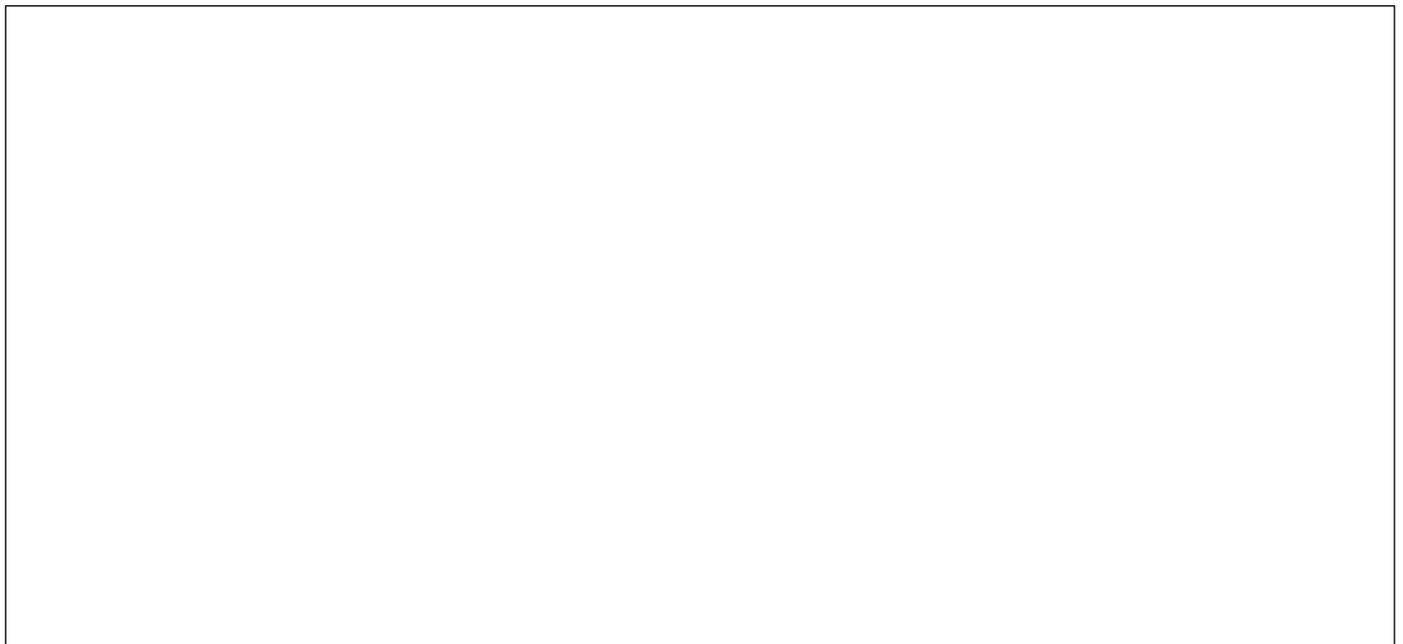
Example #2



5. Memory Moment:

When the author/narrator interrupts the action to tell you about a memory or moment from the past, STOP and ask yourself, “Why might this memory/moment be important?” The answer may lead you to consider developing theme(s), conflict, character development or foreshadowing.

Example #1



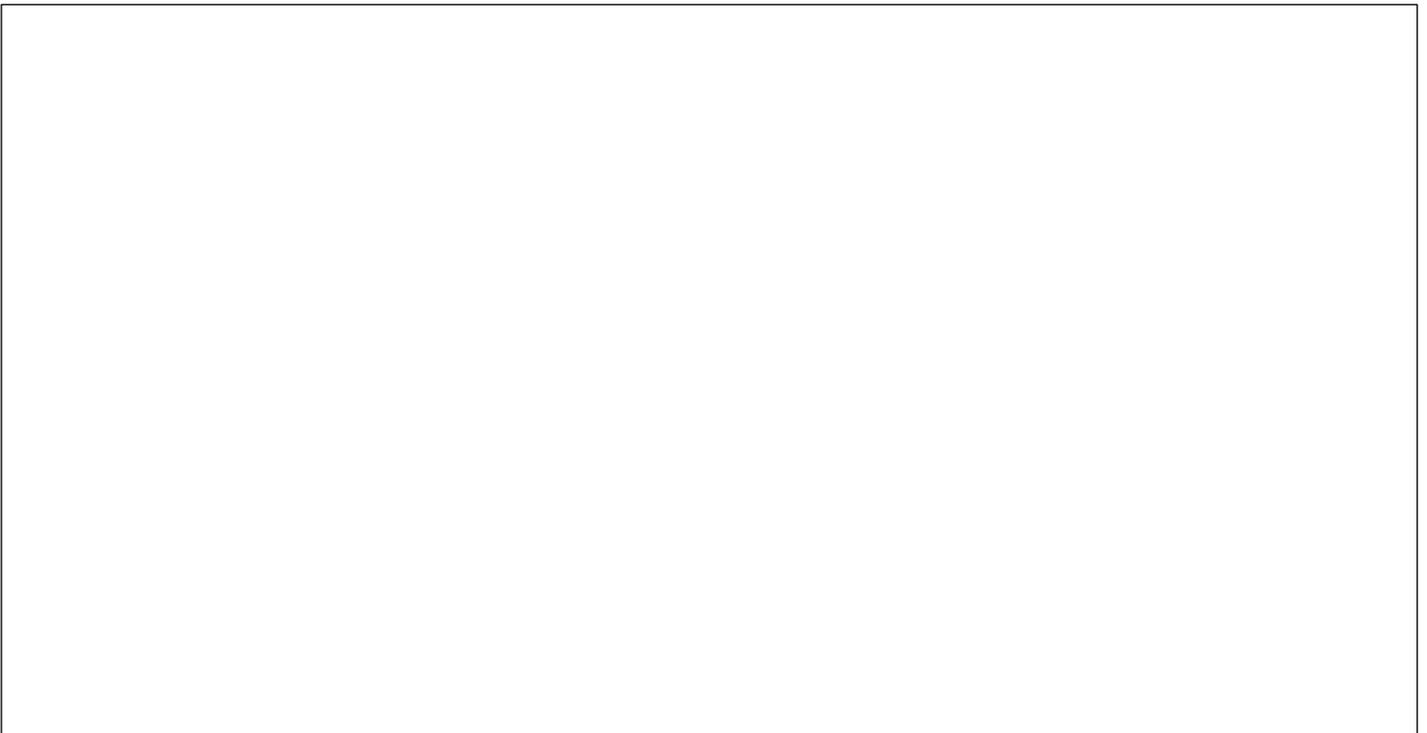
Example #2



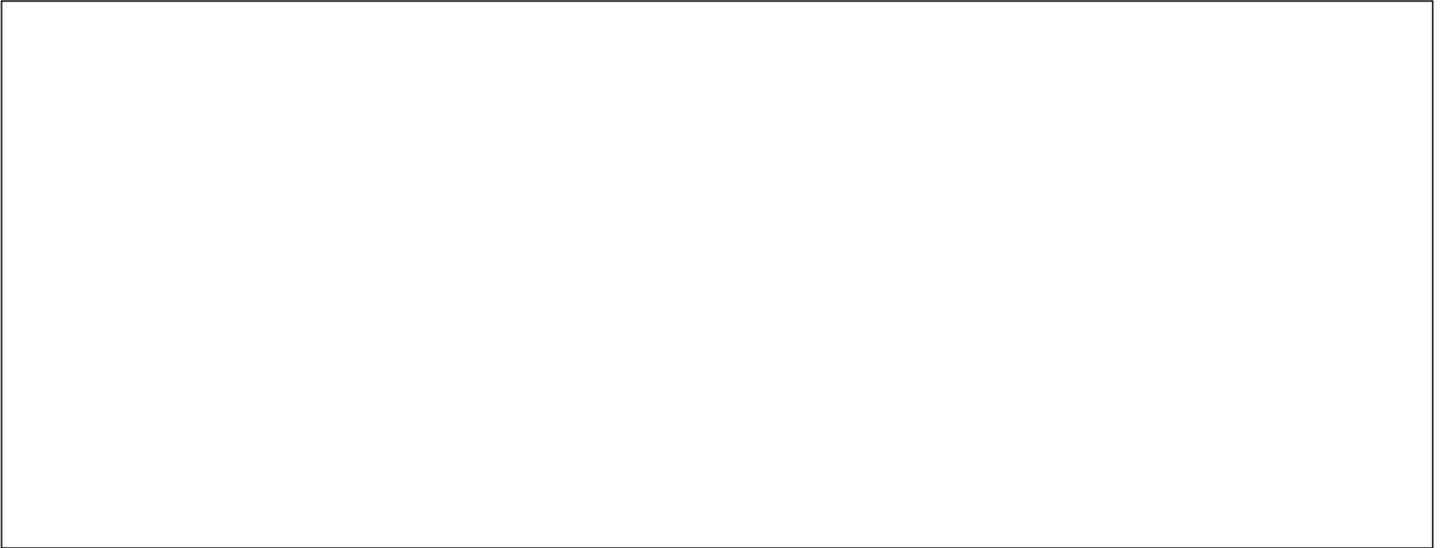
6. Tough Questions:

When a character asks himself/or another character a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, "What does this question make me think about?" The answer may tell you about conflict, character development, and even something about 'societal' expectations.

Example #1



Example #2



BONUS: Select ONE of the boxes above that, now that you have finished reading the novel, you would like to revisit. Provide a discussion...with ANALYSIS.

