

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Rules of Notice

(Strategies and techniques authors use to get your attention and focus you on important details)

Privileged Positions:

- Most privileged position - the end (last impression)
- Second most privileged position - the beginning (you're curious)
- Titles
- Climax (especially for themes)
- Ruptures - where things break with your expectations or the flow of the story is interrupted with. Sometimes the interruptions are visual (sections breaks, ellipsis, etc.)

Undue attention:

- Closeups
- Repetition
- Described in great detail
- Something a character pays special attention to
- Weird authorial behavior

Names:

- Pay attention to names of character - including nicknames and initials.
- Names of places (towns/neighborhoods/schools are often important)

*Note - authors can chose ANY name - think about why they chose the ones they did.*

Other things to pay attention:

- Double meanings - words/phrases/ideas that can mean more than one thing
- First impressions
- What characters say . . . and how they say it
- Emotionally charged words or descriptions
- Allusions - references to literature or culture authors expect readers to be aware of
- How characters and objects are related.
- How an object is used . . . and if it changes or the use of that object changes.

See back for symbolism

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## Rules of Notice Continued

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### Symbolism

#### Colors

- Red - anger, excitement, danger, stop, love, passion
- Yellow - cowardice, hope, hazard
- Beige/brown - flat, boring, non-committal, plain
- Blue - sadness, depression, corporate, conservative, male
- Green - spring, go, new birth, nature
- Orange - fire, strong emotion
- Black - evil, death, funerals
- White - purity, honesty, peace, brides, angels
- Pink- feminine
- Purple - royalty
- Gray - sad, depressed

#### Animals

- Owl
- Fox
- Snake
- Eagle
- Ant
- Coyote
- Dragon
- Rabbit
- Shark
- Swan
- Wolf
- Others?

#### Bad Luck

- Thirteen
- Black cats
- Ladders
- Other?

#### Other significant symbols:

- Rings
- Crosses
- Flags
- Moon
- Water
- apple

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