

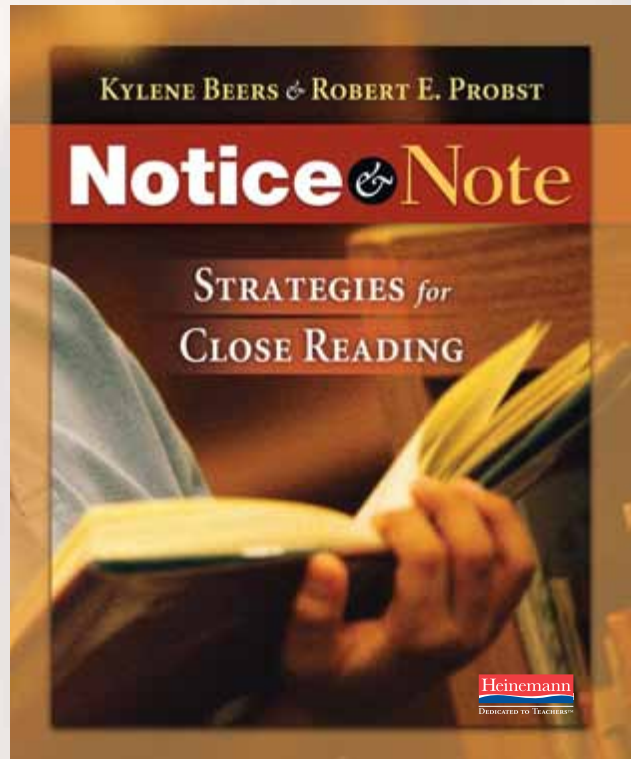
FROM **Kylene Beers**, AUTHOR OF *When Kids Can't Read—What Teachers Can Do* AND
Robert E. Probst, AUTHOR OF *Response & Analysis: Teaching Literature in Secondary School*

Notice & Note

STRATEGIES for CLOSE READING

“Just as rigor does not reside in the barbell but in the act of lifting it, rigor in reading is not an attribute of a text but rather of a reader’s behavior—engaged, observant, responsive, questioning, analytical. The close reading strategies in Notice and Note will help you cultivate those critical reading habits that will make your students more attentive, thoughtful, independent readers.”

—**Kylene Beers** and **Robert E. Probst**



In *Notice and Note* Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst introduce 6 “signposts” that alert readers to significant moments in a work of literature and encourage students to read closely. Learning first to spot these signposts and then to question them enables readers to explore the text, any text, finding evidence to support their interpretations. In short, these close reading strategies will help your students to notice and note.

In this timely and practical guide Kylene and Bob

- **examine the new emphasis** on *text-dependent questions, rigor, text complexity*, and what it means to be literate in the 21st century
- **identify 6 signposts** that help readers understand and respond to character development, conflict, point of view, and theme
- **provide 6 text-dependent anchor questions** that help readers take note and read more closely
- **offer 6 Notice and Note model lessons**, including text selections and teaching tools, that help you introduce each signpost to your students.

Notice and Note will help create attentive readers who look closely at a text, interpret it responsibly, and reflect on what it means in their lives. It should help them become the responsive, rigorous, independent readers we not only want students to be but know our democracy demands.

Coming Fall 2012!

Grades 4–10 / 978-0-325-04693-8 / 2013 / 224 pp est. / \$23.00 est.

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“We read and reread a range of popular adolescent literature looking for how authors showed when a character was changing, what the internal conflict was, or what the theme might be. We thought if we could teach students to notice these features, then we could teach them some questions to ask themselves, thus encouraging them to read the text more closely without becoming dependent on teachers to always ask the questions.”

—Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst

6 SIGNPOSTS TO Notice & Note

Notice and Note signposts are particularly noticeable points in a text that stand out as a significant moment in the story. They provide insight into or raise questions about literary elements such as character, setting, conflict, and theme. And because these signposts are consistently found in a majority of books, they support students as they read a wide range of literature—and even nonfiction texts.

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

2 WORDS OF THE WISER

When a character (probably 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.

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

4 AGAIN & AGAIN

When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, STOP and ask yourself, “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.

5 MEMORY MOMENT

When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask yourself, “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.

6 TOUGH QUESTIONS

When a character asks himself a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, “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.

The *Notice and Note* signposts will give your students the tools they need to notice critical elements in a text, make note of what they mean, and, as a result, do the close, rigorous reading we want all students to do.

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