

Reading for Changes: Fiction
Mr. Burke/English

Symbol	Description	What to Look For	Implications/Cause/Importance of the Change
A	<i>Change in the Action:</i> “Action” refers to what the character(s) are doing or what is happening in the story.	Verbs describing actions	Use the following questions to help you determine if something has changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What is the situation? <input type="checkbox"/> Did something change? <input type="checkbox"/> What changed? <input type="checkbox"/> How did it change? <input type="checkbox"/> Is this change important?
T	<i>Change in Time:</i> The story skips ahead or back.	Language that signals such shifts: <i>Days later...After some time had passed...Twenty years before...Immediately...</i>	
F	<i>Change in Focus:</i> Imagine a camera’s lens shifting to a new object or event. Or the story might shift from a focus on a character’s feelings (inside) to how they are responding (external)..	Language that signals directional shift; movement from one place or point of reference to another.	Ask the following questions to help you evaluate the consequence of the changes you observe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What or whom did this change affect? <input type="checkbox"/> To what degree or in what way did this change affect others? <input type="checkbox"/> What is the cause of this change? <input type="checkbox"/> What questions might help you determine the importance of this change? <input type="checkbox"/> What evidence of this change can you provide? <input type="checkbox"/> How has the character/situation changed from the beginning to the end of the story? (What evidence can you provide?) <input type="checkbox"/> What helped you to identify this change? (e.g., if the change is in time, you should look for changes in tense or language like, “Several hours later...” <input type="checkbox"/> Use the following prompts to help you write about or discuss any changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This change is important because... o The author’s language creates a dark tone... o The change in point-of-view allows us to see...
t m	<i>Change in Tone or Mood:</i> Sound or feeling that the world brings to the reader’s mind. Also associated with colors and emotions.	Language that intensifies (<i>suddenly, slowly, faster</i>); imagery that paints the scene (e.g., shift from light to dark).	
S	<i>Change in Setting:</i> Where and when the action takes place.	Language that signals change in time or place. Books sometimes use ¶ breaks and extra space between ¶s to signal such shifts.	
POV	<i>Change in Point of View:</i> Story shifts from one character’s point of view to another; or, from one time (e.g., when young) to a different point of view (when older).	Shift in time; shift in pronouns or other referents. Books sometimes use ¶ breaks and extra space between ¶s to signal such shifts.	
D	<i>Change in Direction:</i> Related to but not the same as focus. The plot is headed in a certain direction, perhaps a predictable one, when suddenly the entire story’s direction changes in a direction you could not have predicted.	Look for structural signals like extra space between paragraphs; new chapters; or language that signals significant shift in plot.	
C/S	<i>Change in Condition or Status:</i> Refers to a significant change in the character’s physical, emotional, or social situation.	Look for changes in behavior or circumstances compared with earlier portions of the story.	