



suggestions.

Specific Things to Observe

<p>Key Words</p>	<p>When you first read a passage, look for the key words; those words you think are important in the passage. Repetition of words will sometimes give you a clue. Underline them in your Bible.</p>
<p>Advice Admonitions Warnings Promises</p>	<p>Be on the alert for the admonitions a writer gives: the advice, the exhortations, the warnings, and the things the text tells you to do. Also note the promises and the encouragements. One clue is to look for imperative verbs.</p>
<p>Reasons Results</p>	<p>When you observe admonitions, see if the writer gives you some reasons for any advice. Or note if there is a cause-and-effect relationship—<i>if you do this, then this will happen</i>. Often with a warning, the writer will give possible results.</p>
<p>Contrast Comparisons Illustrations</p>	<p>Make special note of the way a writer uses contrasts, comparisons, and illustrations to bring out the ideas. Comparisons and contrasts point out similarities and differences.</p>
<p>Repetition and Progression of Ideas</p>	<p>Be alert for repetition of words, ideas, or statements. This often will give you a clue as to the author's purpose in a passage. Take special note of lists of items or ideas. Compare the items and see if there is any significance in the order. Is there a progression of ideas toward a climax?</p>
<p>Questions</p>	<p>Be on the watch for the use of the question. Is it used to introduce an idea, summarize a series of ideas, or just to challenge your thinking?</p>

Wald, Oletta. The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study.
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.



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<p>Important Connectives</p> <p>prepositions conjunctions</p>	<p>Connectives are very important in revealing key ideas and relationships. Be on the alert for some of the following:</p> <p><i>but</i>—introduces a contrast <i>if</i>—introduces conditional clause <i>for, because, therefore</i>—introduce reason and results <i>in, into, with</i>—important connectives <i>in order that</i>—sets forth a purpose</p>
<p>Grammatical Construction</p> <p>verbs nouns pronouns adverbs adjectives</p>	<p>Note the grammatical construction of some statements. Be on the alert for the verbs and their tenses, for the use of pronouns, and for the use of adverbs and adjectives and the way they describe things.</p>
<p>Atmosphere</p> <p>Emphatic Statements</p>	<p>Note the general tone of a passage. It may be characterized by the mood of joy, thanksgiving, concern, humility, zeal, anger, or caution. The tone of a passage may vary as a writer moves from one idea to another. The way a writer addresses readers often reveals the mood.</p> <p>Also note the use of emphatic statements, words, and phrases to reveal feelings.</p>
<p>Literary Form</p>	<p>Always note the literary form of a passage: discourse, narrative, poetry, drama, parable, or apocalyptic. Also determine if the writer is using literal or figurative terms.</p>
<p>General Structure</p>	<p>Note the arrangement of the ideas in a passage, the relationship of verses to each other. Sometimes the author makes a general statement, then explains it with examples. Other times the text may list a series of ideas and then summarize with a general statement.</p>