

Literary Analysis: Foreshadowing and Flashback

Practice

Foreshadowing is the author's use of clues to hint at what might happen later in a story.

Tim and Sandy did not notice the dark storm clouds gathering in the evening sky. They joyfully set out for a quiet boat ride on the moonlit lake.

A **flashback** is a scene that interrupts a story to describe an earlier event. Writers use flashback to show something about a character's past.

Anne watched her granddaughter play happily along the seashore. Suddenly Anne was a child again. She and her sister were playing a game they called mermaid, wearing seaweed in their hair until the sun went down.

Writers use foreshadowing and flashback to develop interesting and exciting ways to tell the events in a story.

A Decide whether each group of sentences is an example of foreshadowing or flashback. Circle the correct term. Then, underline the words that helped you choose your answer.

- The sight of the little waterfall reminded Nick of Niagara Falls. Then he was there, before the dramatic falls. He was wearing that heavy black raincoat. He was surrounded by mist.

Foreshadowing

Flashback

- Marcy did not hear the door creak open. She knew no one would be home for hours. Happily she headed downstairs, thinking only of the hour she would spend by the pool.

Foreshadowing

Flashback

B Circle the details or clues that foreshadow events. Explain what might happen.

- Pam sat alone in the kitchen. Briefly she glanced at a stain on the ceiling. *Funny, I hadn't noticed that before.* She turned back to her dinner. The peas had gotten cold.

- Sharon tore excitedly at the paper wrapping. She slowly raised the lid of the box and looked inside. Her eyes grew wide with amazement.

Literary Analysis: Foreshadowing and Flashback**Assess**

A Decide whether each group of sentences is an example of foreshadowing or flashback. Circle the correct term. Then, underline the words and phrases that helped you choose your answer.

1. Mary heard the bells ring in the distance. She thought about the time not too long ago when that sound would make her break into a sprint. Now it was that time again. She was running so that she would not be late for school. Oh, how she disliked the sound of bells!

Foreshadowing**Flashback**

2. A long-forgotten memory came back to Peter as he drove through his old neighborhood. Mr. Smith's dog was chasing him down the street. He fell, and pain shot through his arm.

Foreshadowing**Flashback**

3. Mike felt as confident as ever when he started his boat engine that day. He noticed a few clouds gathering overhead, but did not worry about them.

Foreshadowing**Flashback**

B Read this passage. Underline the details that foreshadow an outcome or plot development.

Peter walked briskly down the trail with his well-organized pack on his back. He had food, a bedroll, a compass, matches, water—everything he would need for his three-day hike. The day was sunny and the air was cool. Then a fast-moving shadow crossed his path, the shadow of a large bird in the air. Peter looked up and saw a turkey vulture, flying low. Something had died nearby.

The air became cold, and a bank of dark clouds moved in. Peter zipped up his jacket and continued on his trail. "The clouds will pass," he thought. "This will be a hike to remember."

It would be memorable, but not in the way Peter had planned.