

FORESHADOWING IN LITERATURE

High School English Language Arts Worksheet

What Is Foreshadowing?

Foreshadowing is a literary technique in which an author gives the reader hints, clues, or warnings about something that will happen later in a story.

Foreshadowing can create:

- Suspense
- Anticipation
- Mystery
- Tension
- A sense of preparation for future events

Example:

As Maria left the house, she noticed that the sky was unusually dark. She shivered and glanced nervously at the old bridge ahead.

***This may foreshadow that something dangerous or important will happen during Maria's journey.

Direct vs. Indirect Foreshadowing

Direct Foreshadowing

The author gives a clear warning or statement about something that will happen.

Example: "If you go into that house, you will regret it."

Indirect Foreshadowing

The author gives a subtle clue that the reader may not fully understand until later.

Example: The character noticed that one of the stairs looked loose before walking upstairs. Later, the character might fall through the broken stair.

***Remember: Foreshadowing = clues about what is coming.

Part I: Identify the Foreshadowing

Read each example. Decide whether the sentence contains foreshadowing.

Write **Y** for yes or **N** for no.

1. ____ The old man warned, "Whatever you do, don't open that door."
2. ____ Sarah ate cereal before school.
3. ____ The narrator mentioned that the bridge had recently been damaged by a storm.
4. ____ As Jake entered the forest, he noticed that all the birds had suddenly stopped singing.
5. ____ The dog slept peacefully beside the fireplace.
6. ____ Emily wore her favorite blue sweater to school.
7. ____ The character noticed that the car's brakes were making a strange noise.
8. ____ The family ate dinner together at six o'clock.
9. ____ The girl picked up her backpack and walked to class.
10. ____ "I have a terrible feeling that we will never see him again," Marcus said.

Part II: Direct or Indirect?

Write **D** for Direct Foreshadowing or **I** for Indirect Foreshadowing.

11. ____ "You should stay away from the river tonight," the fisherman warned.
12. ____ The narrator described the abandoned house as having broken windows and a door that would not lock.
13. ____ The character carefully examined the cracked ladder before climbing it.
14. ____ "By tomorrow morning, everything will be different."
15. ____ "I knew that this would be the last time I ever saw my hometown."
16. ____ Dark clouds gathered as the characters began their journey.
17. ____ "Don't trust the man in the black coat."
18. ____ The character discovered a newspaper article about a robbery that had occurred in the neighborhood.

Part III: Multiple Choice

19. What is the main purpose of foreshadowing?
 - A. To introduce the setting
 - B. To give clues about future events
 - C. To describe a character's appearance
 - D. To explain the story's ending
20. Which is the best example of foreshadowing?
 - A. The character ate breakfast before leaving.
 - B. The narrator describes a character's favorite color.
 - C. The character notices that the old bridge has several large cracks before crossing it.
 - D. The characters discuss what they had for lunch.
21. Which statement is an example of direct foreshadowing?
 - A. Dark clouds gathered in the distance.
 - B. "Something terrible is going to happen tonight."
 - C. The character heard a strange noise.
 - D. A picture fell from the wall.
22. Which is an example of indirect foreshadowing?
 - A. "You will regret opening that door."
 - B. "Tomorrow will be the worst day of your life."
 - C. The character notices that the lock on the front door is broken.
 - D. "I know something bad is going to happen."
23. Foreshadowing can help create which of the following?
 - A. Suspense
 - B. Tension
 - C. Anticipation
 - D. All of the above
24. Why might an author use subtle foreshadowing instead of directly telling readers what will happen?
 - A. To make readers think and make predictions
 - B. To make the story shorter
 - C. To avoid describing characters
 - D. To eliminate conflict
25. Which sentence contains the strongest example of foreshadowing?
 - A. "The sun was shining brightly."
 - B. "The children laughed as they played."
 - C. "The detective noticed that the window had been broken from the inside."
 - D. "The family ordered pizza for dinner."

Part IV: Analyze the Clue

Read each passage and answer the questions.

Passage 1

As Daniel prepared to leave the house, his grandmother grabbed his arm. *"Please don't take the mountain road tonight,"* she said. *"The weather is getting worse."* Daniel laughed. *"I'll be fine."* Outside, thunder rumbled in the distance.

26. What event might this passage foreshadow?

The passage may foreshadow Daniel encountering a _____, getting into trouble on the mountain road, or being unable to _____ return home.

27. Is the foreshadowing primarily direct or indirect?

28. Identify two details that provide foreshadowing.

1. His grandmother specifically warns him not to take the _____ road.
 2. The weather is getting _____.
 3. Thunder is already _____ in the distance.
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Passage 2

Lisa entered the old theater. She noticed that several ceiling tiles were hanging loose above her. A large crack ran across one of the walls. She decided not to worry about it and took her seat beneath the damaged ceiling.

29. What might these details foreshadow?

The details may foreshadow the ceiling _____ or someone being _____ by the damaged building.

30. Is this direct or indirect foreshadowing?

31. Why might the author include these details?

The author includes these details to give readers a _____ about possible _____ without directly telling them what will happen.

Passage 3

"You must never open the box," Grandpa said. "Promise me." Michael nodded. Later that night, Michael stared at the mysterious box sitting on the table. He reached toward the lid.

32. What does Grandpa's warning foreshadow?

Grandpa's warning foreshadows Michael opening the _____ and something important, _____, or unexpected happening as a result.

33. Is this direct or indirect foreshadowing?

Part V: What Is Being Foreshadowed?

For each example, predict what the clue might foreshadow.

34. The protagonist discovers that someone has been following her.

Possible future event:

The character may be _____ by the person following her.

35. A character repeatedly mentions how much they love swimming, but the story takes place near a dangerous ocean.

Possible future event:

The character may encounter _____ in the ocean or have an accident involving _____.

36. A character checks the batteries in a flashlight before entering a dark cave.

Possible future event:

The flashlight may become important when the character enters the _____ cave, possibly because the _____ go out.

37. A character says, *"I have a feeling we'll never return to this town."*

Possible future event:

The character may leave the town _____ or experience an event that prevents them from _____.

38. A character discovers that the family dog is missing before hearing strange noises outside.

Possible future event:

The dog may have encountered something _____, or the strange noises may reveal what happened to the _____.

Part VI: Foreshadowing or Not?

Read each sentence. Write **F** if it is foreshadowing or **N** if it is not.

39. _____ "The knife on the kitchen counter gleamed under the light."
40. _____ "John's favorite subject was history."
41. _____ "The storm clouds moved closer as the ship left the harbor."
42. _____ "Maria had brown eyes and long hair."
43. _____ "The character noticed that the front door was unlocked even though she remembered locking it."
44. _____ "The family had pizza for dinner."
45. _____ "The old photograph showed three people, but only two were still alive."
46. _____ "The boy enjoyed playing video games after school."
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