Flashback and Foreshadowing Practice Exercises

Practice 1: The Grasshopper and the Ant

An Aesop's Fable Retold

Read the selection, and then answer the questions that follow.

(*1*) One fine summer day, Grasshopper was hopping about in the field. As he chirped and danced, he spied Ant carrying a big kernel of corn to his nest. Grasshopper watched as Ant came back, lifted another kernel, then carried it to the nest as well. This happened repeatedly. Finally, Grasshopper asked, "Ant, why do you work so hard on such a lovely day?"

(*2*) "Soon it will be winter," replied Ant. "I'm gathering food for my family. I suggest you do the same!"

(*3*) "Why bother about winter?" asked Grasshopper. "There's plenty of food in the fields now!"

(*4*) Ant remembered last winter and how deep snow had covered everything. There had been no way to get out of his anthill, let alone try to find food! Now, an even worse winter was predicted. "You'll feel differently when the big snow comes!" said Ant, as he shook his head and walked away.

(*5*) When winter came, Grasshopper had no food. The fields were covered with deep snow. Grasshopper was very hungry and sad, knowing that Ant had food enough because he had worked hard to prepare in advance.

1. In this fable, the author uses flashback to have

a. Grasshopper remember a song he used to sing.

b. Ant remember where Grasshopper used to live.

c. Ant remember how bad last winter was.

d. Grasshopper remember where he hid seeds during the summer.

2. Which best foreshadowed what might happen in the story?

a. Grasshopper hopped about in the field.

b. An even worse winter was predicted.

c. Ant walked away.

d. Grasshopper chirped.

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3. Based on the story, which do you predict could NOT happen?

a. Grasshopper begs Ant for just a small bit of food.

b. Ant feels sorry for Grasshopper and gives him food.

c. Grasshopper digs under the snow and finds lots of food.

d. Grasshopper gets weaker without any food.

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