

Foreshadowing

Name: _____

Foreshadowing is when the author hints at what might happen in the story (or simply tells you directly). You are getting a “shadow” of the events before they happen. The author includes foreshadowing to add interest, focus attention, or create feelings like suspense, tension, and mystery.

Text: _____

Foreshadowing example	Type (see below)	Analysis (author's purpose)
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Types of foreshadowing:

Chekhov's gun / concrete foreshadowing: A material item is shown so that the reader will remember it for later (e.g., the kitchen knives shown early in the horror film).

Word choice: The author might clue you in to what type of story this is through word choice. (Why did the author describe the ocean as blood red instead of wine red?)

Prophecy / direct foreshadowing: A knowledgeable source tells you exactly what is going to happen. For example, the chorus of *Romeo and Juliet* spoils the ending from the very start.

Flashback / flash-forward: The author enables the reader to observe events from another time.

Symbolism: Imagine a gangster story that starts with a bunch of rats killing each other in an alley; they all die. The author started this way for a reason. A story that acts as a symbol is called an allegory.

Red Herring: A red herring is misleading foreshadowing. The author wants you to guess wrongly.