Foreshadowing (intermediate/advanced)

Name: _____   Date: _____

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is a literary device that authors use to give readers **hints** about what is to come in the story. It is a way of building **suspense** and keeping the reader engaged. Foreshadowing can be subtle, such as a character's offhand comment or a seemingly insignificant event, or it can be more obvious, like a prophecy or a dream. Either way, it is a way for the author to prepare the reader for future events and create a sense of anticipation.

One classic **example** of foreshadowing is in William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet." In the very first scene, Romeo has a dream that foreshadows his own death. He says, "I dreamt my lady came and found me dead." This is a clear indication of what is to come and sets the tone for the rest of the play.

Another example of foreshadowing is in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. Throughout the books, there are hints about the true nature of Snape's character and his ultimate role in the story. For example, in the first book, when Harry's scar hurts in Snape's presence, it is foreshadowing the connection between Snape and Voldemort.

Red herrings are another literary device that authors use to mislead readers. A red herring is a false clue that is meant to distract the reader from the true plot or outcome. It is often used in mystery novels to keep the reader guessing and to create a sense of unpredictability.

For example, in Agatha Christie's novel "Murder on the Orient Express," there are multiple red herrings that lead the reader to suspect different characters of the murder. It is not until the end that the true culprit is revealed, and the red herrings are exposed as distractions.

Select the correct answer

What is the purpose of foreshadowing in literature?

○ To introduce new characters without context

○ To give readers a hint of what is to come in the story   ○ To describe the setting in great detail

○ To confuse readers and make the plot more complicated

Which of the following is an example of foreshadowing?

○ A character finding a hidden key early in the story

○ A detailed description of a character's appearance

○ The resolution of the main conflict in the story

○ A conversation between two characters about the weather

How can foreshadowing contribute to the mood of a story?

○ By offering a clear resolution   ○ By introducing new plot lines

○ By creating suspense or anticipation   ○ By providing comic relief

In what way can foreshadowing be presented in a story?

○ Through the author's biography   ○ Through the table of contents

○ Through dialogue, actions, or events   ○ Through the acknowledgements section

Why is it important for foreshadowing to be subtle?

○ So it can be removed without affecting the story   ○ So it can be the main focus of the story

○ So it can be easily ignored by readers   ○ So it doesn't give away the plot too early

How does foreshadowing affect a reader's experience?

○ It can create intrigue and keep them engaged   ○ It can make the story predictable and boring

○ It can make the characters seem less believable   ○ It can make the story too complex to follow

What is the difference between foreshadowing and a red herring?

○ Foreshadowing and red herring are the same thing

○ Foreshadowing is used in literature, while a red herring is used in movies

○ Foreshadowing hints at future events, while a red herring misleads

○ Foreshadowing is always positive, while a red herring is negative

Which literary technique is often used alongside foreshadowing?

○ Flashback   ○ Onomatopoeia   ○ Hyperbole   ○ Metaphor

Drag the words to the correct panel

Arthur Conan Doyle was a _____ of foreshadowing in his works. One famous example is in the story "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" where the _____ is hinted at early on. Another is in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" where the _____ of a giant hound are mentioned before the creature is revealed. In "The Final Problem," Doyle foreshadows Sherlock Holmes's _____ by having him say farewell to Watson. "The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual" contains foreshadowing through the _____ itself, which hints at the location of the hidden treasure. "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" foreshadows the _____ of the accused through subtle clues. In "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans," the _____ are mentioned early on, hinting at their importance to the story. "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" uses the _____ messages as foreshadowing for the eventual reveal of the culprit. "The Valley of Fear" foreshadows the _____ of one of the characters through their actions and words. Lastly, "The Sign of Four" foreshadows the _____ that is central to the plot through a map and cryptic messages.

footprints, innocence, coded, treasure, snake, betrayal, plans, death, master, ritual

Write a sentence that foreshadows a character's betrayal later in the story.

_____

_____

_____

Create a sentence that foreshadows a natural disaster occurring in the story.

_____

_____

_____

Write a sentence that foreshadows a character's secret being revealed.

_____

_____

_____