

Resource: Flashback Practice

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.
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.

Practice 3: Signs of the Times

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

- (1) *"It's going to be one of those days,"* Marek thought to himself as he looked up at the board labeled DEPARTURES. His flight was delayed. He thought back to how the day had begun. When he woke up, the sun had been shining brightly and robins that had built a nest outside his window were chirping loudly. He'd jumped out of bed, anxious to start the first day of his vacation. But he'd tripped over the clothes he'd carelessly dropped on the floor the night before and banged his knee on the closet door.
- (2) Now he sat at the airport thinking, *"I guess I should have known this morning! Maybe it was an omen."* He wasn't exactly sure what an omen was, but his mom always said that when things went wrong, so he figured it fit! He pulled his cell from his backpack. Quickly, he sent a text to his mom at work, alerting her that although he should be in the air on the way to his dad's place in Florida, he hadn't left the ground. Next, he sent a message to his dad, so he wouldn't be waiting at the airport in Florida for a flight that didn't come.
- (3) When he was finished, Marek went to look for something to eat. He thought about the last time he'd gone on vacation with both Mom and Dad. They'd gone to that new theme park and had a great time. That had been the last time Dad had taken any real time off... Mom insisted he worked too much. Then things changed, and now he was caught between two homes ... the one he shared with Mom and the one we visited to see Dad.
- (4) Marek looked out the window and saw that everything was covered in a thick blanket of fog! Just then, he heard an announcement: "Due to the fog, all flights are delayed." *Could this be another omen?* he wondered.
- (5) For hours, Marek and the other passengers waited for news. The fog remained. No flights. Then Marek heard his cell. It was his dad. "Listen, you're still stuck up there and now they're forecasting a hurricane down here. I want you to have a great vacation, so why don't I come up there? ... We can spend some time together, then fly here together next week. I can grab a flight now... They say by the time we get up there, the fog will have lifted and we can land. What do you think?"
- (6) "I think it would be great, Dad!" Marek replied, wondering what Mom would think. "Can't wait to see you!"
- (7) Marek called his mom, relaying the change in plans. She told him to stay at the airport and she'd come to pick him ... and his dad ... up. Slowly, the fog lifted, and was totally gone when his dad landed and his mom picked them up.
- (8) On the way home, Marek noticed that Mom seemed happy to see Dad ...

and he seemed happy to see her. They laughed and talked about "the old days" all the way home. "*Maybe Dad was supposed to come here instead of me going there ... maybe this whole thing was an omen. Could it mean they'll get back together?*" Marek wondered.

9. The author uses flashback to have Marek
 - a. remember when he and his mother moved into the house.
 - b. recall that his father had been a champion swimmer.
 - c. recall when he tripped over his clothes that morning.
 - d. remember where he had hidden his old suitcase.
10. The author also uses flashback to have Marek explain
 - a. why he likes Florida better than the place where he lives.
 - b. what his life had been like before his mom and dad split up.
 - c. how the airports had changed since the last time he was there.
 - d. why he didn't like hamburgers.
11. Which best foreshadows that something important would happen later in the story?
 - a. Marek tripping over his clothes
 - b. Marek hearing the birds chirping
 - c. the foggy skies
 - d. Mom being at work
12. Which foreshadows that Marek will discover that his dad has changed?
 - a. Dad offers to take days off work to spend with Marek.
 - b. Marek goes to find something to eat.
 - c. Dad once took the family to a theme park.
 - d. It's the first day of Marek's vacation.

Answers

1. c
2. b
3. c

9. c
10. b
11. c
12. a