Flashback and Foreshadowing

Flashback
When we have a shift in time, for example, when we see an adult character as a child or a crime is committed at an earlier time, this is called a flashback.

- ________________ is a device that allows the writer to present ________________ that happened ________________ the time of the ________________ events.

- Flashback techniques include:
  - ________________
  - ________________
  - Stories of the ________________ told by characters
  - An ________________ by the author (the author might simply say, “But back in Tom’s youth…”)

- Flashback is useful for ________________, to fill in the reader about a character or place, or to explain the ________________ to a conflict.

(An example of Flashback occurs in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol when the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge into his past to see scenes from his youth.)

How to find a Flashback in Literature:

1. Look for a place where the writer ________________ up the chronological ________________ of the plot to tell about something that took place ________________.

2. Look for time words such as ________________, ________________, and ________________.

Examples:
- I thought about what happened earlier...
- Images from years ago flooded my brain...
- A memory from the distant past surged up...

3. Look for ________________, characters’ ________________, and words about youth or old age:

Examples:
- When Carlita was nine, her father taught her to swim...
- Before I became the old man you see before you...

4. Look for time words such as ________________, ________________, and ________________. Such phrases can indicate the stopping point of a flashback.
Examples:
- Now I am a grownup...
- These days I live more slowly than when I was in the army.

Practice & Application
Directions: Below is an excerpt from “Last cover” by Paul Annixter. Read the excerpt, and then CIRCLE the sentence or phrase that signals the beginning of the flashback in this passage.

At supper that night, Colin could scarcely eat. Ever since he’d been able to walk, my brother had had a growing love of wild things, but Bandit had been like his very own, a gift of the woods. One afternoon a year and a half before, Father and Laban Small had been running a vixen through the woods with their dogs. With the last of her strength, the she-fox had made for her den, not far from our house. The dogs had overtaken her and killed her just before she reached it. When Father and Laban came up, they’d found Colin crouched nearby holding her cub in his arms.

Directions: Read the paragraph below and answer the questions

The snowball smacked Walter in the shoulder. He turned and saw Crenshaw and his friends laughing. Like a flood, the memory of a snowball exploding into his face in fourth grade filled him. Big Andre had thrown that one. The kids had had a good laugh. Walter charged Crenshaw. “How do you like it?” he yelled, as he pushed Crenshaw’s startled face into the snow.

1. What words signal the start of the flashback?
2. At what point does the plot return to chronological order?
3. How does the flashback offer insight into the character motivation and conflict?

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing
Foreshadowing is an author’s use of ________________ or ________________ to suggest events that will occur ________________ in the story.

- Not all foreshadowing is obvious. Frequently, future events are merely hinted at through ________________, ________________ or the attitudes and ________________ of the ________________.

Foreshadowing frequently serves two purposes:
1. It builds ________________ by raising questions that encourage the reader to go on and find out more about the event that is being foreshadowed.
2. Foreshadowing is also a means of making a narrative more believable by partially ________________ the reader for events which are to follow.
In literature, foreshadowing usually consists of only one or two sentences, and is especially effective when ending a scene or chapter.

Example:
Sam wished he could rid himself of the sick feeling in his gut that told him something terrible was going to happen, and happen soon.

Practice & Application

Analyzing Foreshadowing:
- Think about plot events
- Look for clues in dialogue or description
- Predict what will happen next

Ari and his dad were driving home from soccer practice when the snow began. Mr. Gold switched on the windshield wipers and frowned. "I wish I’d had a chance to get new tires," he said. "Ours are really worn out."

1) What is the "plot" so far?
2) Are there any clues in the dialogue or descriptions that you think might be foreshadowing?
3) What do you think will happen next?

Foreshadowing can help to build suspense in literature.

When analyzing suspense....
- Examine your feelings as you read
- Identify the rising action of the plot
- Focus on the main questions you have about the story’s outcome

By now, the snow was falling so hard that the windshield wipers couldn’t keep up. Trying to climb Bear Hill, the car fishtailed left, then right. "I don’t know if we can make it up," muttered Mr. Gold, shifting into low gear. Suddenly, at the top of the hill, an 18-wheeler truck jackknifed into their lane. Mr. Gold slammed on his brakes, but nothing happened.

1) What are your feelings about the situation the two characters face?
2) What else might happen to further increase suspense as this story moves toward its climax?
3) Do you have any "burning questions" in your mind about Ari and his father?