

# Foreshadowing

Authors use foreshadowing to create suspense, interest, and intrigue in their work. Read the following introduction to a short story and highlight five phrases that may be foreshadowing and then explain what you think it may foreshadow later in the story on the back of this sheet. Be ready to present your ideas to the class.

I was nine when Mama ran off with the pizza man. I took a nap after lunch and when I woke up she was gone. She left two notes, one for me and one for Papaw Mike. I read mine first. It said that she was gone and not coming back. There were no excuses or regrets in her note, just instructions. I was to call Mike, that's what she called him even though he was her daddy, and tell him to come get me. I did.

"Hellfire," Mike sputtered when I told him the news. "I can't raise no youngin at my age." He was right. Papaw Mike was sixty, ancient on any scale. He could not raise me. All he had to eat at his house were frozen dinners and Little Debbie snack cakes. I would never survive such an upbringing.

He showed up anyway. I already had my things packed when he pulled in the driveway with his old truck. I recon he thought I had more stuff. My things fit nicely into two hefty garbage sacks. One was filled with clothes and the other with books. Mama sold all my toys in a yard sale the week before. She said it was on account of me turning nine and not being a baby no more. I felt right old so I didn't fuss. I still had my stories to keep me company. She would never sell them. I'd have caused a ruckus lickety-split over that and she knew it.

Papaw Mike drove real slow on the way to his place. I think he was trying to figure out what to do about me. I handed him the note Mama left for him and he read it while driving. It wasn't long. He wadded it up and threw it out the window of the Ford when he finished.

"Well," he mumbled. "I could use some help around the place so I'm real happy your mama is letting you come stay with me a while. Do you think you could manage to help me get along until she comes back? There's lots to do at my place and I'm not in great health these days." It was a lie. Papaw Mike was as fit as a fiddle. I shook my head yes anyway but didn't lift my head from the bent over position I had it in. I was crying a little and I didn't want him to see. I wanted his lie to be true.

# Foreshadowing Predictions

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