

Lesson 6: Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is a device in which the writer places clues in a story to prepare the reader for events that are going to happen later. Foreshadowing may clearly foretell an event or merely hint at it. Foreshadowing can create a feeling of suspense, help draw the reader into the story, or add layers of meaning that are only fully revealed at the conclusion of the tale.

DIRECTIONS: *Read the following passage about a girl named Kanela who is trying out for the high school softball team. Then answer the questions that follow the passage.*

- 1 Kanela had been the best hitter for her middle school's softball team, but now, as she warmed up in the on-deck circle, her confidence wavered. She thought the tryouts for the high school softball team would be easy. Instead, the coach had thrown everyone into the pressure of a game situation. So far, several of the batters ahead of her in the order had struck out. The opposing pitcher was the team's ace; she had mastered all of her pitches and knew the best time to use them.
- 2 As she waited for her turn at bat, Kanela began to feel butterflies in her stomach. She loved playing softball, but she could never shake off those pre-game jitters. The weather was a factor, too. The afternoon was cool and hazy, and the light rain would make it tough to see the ball. It was the kind of day in which the world seems half asleep, and Kanela, too, felt sluggish and drowsy.
- 3 Her nerves made it tough for Kanela to relax and concentrate. The time moved very slowly, giving her anxiety a chance to build.
- 4 All of a sudden, she heard a shout. "Kanela," yelled the coach. "You're up!" Kanela stepped into the batter's box, her heart thumping.
- 5 She looked out across the diamond. The bases were loaded, and the score was tied. *It's all up to me,* thought Kanela. *Concentrate. Keep your eye on the ball.*
- 6 She dug in and took a deep breath. Just then, as the pitcher was about to begin her windup, a bright ray of sunshine broke through the dark clouds and lit up the field. In seconds, a bright blue sky had opened overhead. With the field brightening, Kanela felt a confident wave of calm rush over her. The pitcher got the sign from the catcher and nodded her head. Then came the pitch. As the ball grew closer, it appeared huge to Kanela, as big as a beach ball. With her eye clearly on it, she swung.

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1. Based on the information given in this passage, do you think Kanela will make the team? Explain your answer.

2. Identify one section of the passage that foreshadows the outcome of this story. Explain why it led you to assume this outcome.

3. Imagine a story in which something terrible is going to happen. How could an author foreshadow this disastrous event? List at least two ways.



For more information on foreshadowing, see *Glencoe Literature, Course 4*, p. R6.