

Name _____



Shadows are dark images of the objects that cast them.

A shadow is not always exactly the same shape as its original object—it is sometimes distorted, or twisted.




When the object appears first, the shadow is an unimportant tag-along.




But when the shadow is seen first, it's suddenly very meaningful.

Why? Because even though you don't yet know what is coming into view, you do know that there is *something*. If there's a shadow, something must be casting it.

A good writer is a master-plotter—and a master plot is full of “shadows.” In almost every case, the shadows—or clues—come first. They come to tell you—if you're paying attention—**that a hint has been dropped**. In writing, an author purposely plants hints or clues for the readers to find, signaling to them that something UN-FORE-SEEN is going to happen. And when that “something” finally happens, the readers are partly prepared, because the event has been FORE-SHADOWED.

 Would you like to try your hand at creating shadows with words (foreshadowing)?

 Would you like to write a suspenseful tale full of cleverly placed hints and a surprise ending?

 Well, this is how to start:

1. The first step is to have some idea of what you want to write about. Once you come up with a story line, begin by writing your story's ending (the surprise ending). Write it at the bottom of the page.

The End

The rain came gushing down, washing away all the seeds that had just been planted.

2. Next, how and where will you begin to tell your suspenseful tale? Write your beginning sentences at the top of the page.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Plotting Device of Foreshadowing

The Beginning

It seemed like a normal Monday morning.

Note that this beginning sentence gives the reader an important clue—***it is not going to be a normal day.***

The foreshadowing has begun.

3. And—NOW—the fun part. You already thought about what will happen, and you can drop as many hints as you like in the middle part of the story. Just make sure you don't give the ending away...

The Middle

Jeff and Sara knew that all the seeds had to be put in by the end of the day if they were to be protected from the spring rains. It was already a little late in the season, and there had been some ominous rumbling from the west. Old Mr. Jenkins had come by on Sunday with a worried look on his face, and asked when they planned on doing their planting. They were the last ones, he'd told them. It was only that the children had been so sick, and then Tim, the old horse, had died. Now, as they worked, Jeff kept looking up anxiously at the sky. The day had started out warm, but a chill had settled in around noon, just when the temperature should have been warmest.

This middle paragraph tells the reader what is going on. As it tells the story, it also gives some clues about what will happen. For instance, the reader knows that it is very close to the spring rain season. The reader knows that “there had been some ominous rumbling” and that the day had turned suddenly cold. As the story continues, the author might mention other signs, like stillness or clouds gathering. By now, you should have guessed that there is going to be a storm. What you don't know yet is what will happen when the storm hits.

On the next page, it's your turn to try your hand at foreshadowing.

Have fun, and keep your readers in suspense!

Name _____

CREATIVE WRITING

The Plotting Device of
Foreshadowing

The End:

The Beginning:

The Middle: