Foreshadow:

A visual, written or verbal warning or indication within a book, movie or play that gives the audience a clue as to what may happen in the future of the story.

The hints of foreshadowing set the scene and allow the suspense to rise for the audience or reader.

Examples:

- Red Riding-hood leaves the safety of her mother's house to venture through the woods to her grandmother's secluded house. Before leaving, her mother warns her not to speak to strangers.
- Cinderella's fairy-godmother gives her everything she needs to make her fantasy night come true but along with all the finery she also bestows upon the poor girl an impending time limit.
- In a castle lives an evil queen who's vanity cannot be matched. Suddenly Snow White is introduced as being a maiden of superior beauty and innocence/ vulnerability.



Characters often doom themselves by saying examples from the list below:

Quotes (famous last words):

- "That will never happen to me"
- "What's the worst that can happen"
- "There's a better chance of us finding it/them/him/her if we split up"
- "You worry too much"
- "I'll be back before you know it"

In real life if we were suspicious about every irrational fear we would most likely die early from high stress levels. However, in fiction we are accustomed to reading deeply into hints that are given: everything is shown or said for a reason.

Superstitious Beliefs

In real life there's a law that is known as **Murphy's Law** which states: If it can happen, it will! Or also phrased as: if it can go wrong, it will!

If one was superstitious about this law they may believe that the act of or verbal intent of 'knocking on wood' would deter or cancel undesirable fate after a person said something boastful or mentioned concerns about harm or death.

It is believed to originate from the pagan times when people would create a ruckus to ward off evil spirits and prevent them from ruining a person's good luck.

Writing Exercise: Write an example of <u>FORESHADOWING</u> from "Romeo and Juliet".