



Alberta Regional Consortia

ELAL 5

FLASH- FORWARD

WHAT IS IT?



DEFINITION

A flash-forward interrupts the story plot to take an audience forward in time to events in the future.

It can be a long passage or a single sentence.



Definition from Alberta's ELAL 5 Curriculum

WHY USE IT?

creates intrigue and suspense

shows information about a character

creates tension between what is happening and what will happen



EXAMPLE

“Are you okay?” Michael had asked, and Ada nodded even though in truth the answer depended on what the letter inside the envelope had said.

Years on, Michael would return to Virginia, where he was from, and in a place called Canton Hills he would start a parcel delivery service that he would operate for forty-five years before handing it down to his son...But on that day he had merely handed Ada the envelope, then cleared his throat, and Ada had watched him trek back out of the jungle with the mailbag on his hip.



EXAMPLE

She doesn't speak, but the undercurrent—the unspoken conversation that flows endlessly between them—is loud. Shay is the girl wearing pajamas with pink clouds on them the first time he entered her room, and she is the woman who will give birth to their daughter ten years from now, and she is this young woman, her face wide open, offering him everything.





YOUR CHALLENGE

As you are reading texts this year, be on the look out for examples of flash-forward.

When you have found one, please share it with the class.