Honors Literature and Short Stories
Week 11

John Steinbeck
Of Mice and Men or Tortilla Flat

Foreshadowing
Foreshadowing is the laying of hints or clues about what may happen in the future of the story. This is done by revealing things that may immediately have no direct relationship to the story, but help your reader feel that something will happen. For instance:

> Henri carefully wiped down every surface of the room to erase any evidence of fingerprints. He removed the showercap from his hair, which he knew prevented any possibility of strands of hair being dropped at the scene. Surveying the room one last time, he nodded in satisfaction, glanced at the body on the floor with indifference, and pulled the door shut behind him. The heavy clunk of the lock echoed in the small space. Flexing his hands, Henri noticed his watch was not on his wrist. *I must have left it at home today,* he thought idly.
> **OR**
> Chris was so excited about his hiking trip. Yes, it would be hot in the low country, but he felt well prepared. Quickly filling his backpack with dried food, he also grabbed his already filled water canteen. The canteen snagged on something, so he yanked harder to free it. Without looking at it, he threw it in the trunk and slammed the hood shut.

Foreshadowing is a useful tool if not overused or used in too obvious a manner.

Assignments

1. Read Chapters 3 and 4 of Of Mice and Men or the next 70 pages of Tortilla Flat As you read, continue to take notes – either with margin notes, sticky notes, or on a separate sheet of paper. Note page numbers with specific points. Note observations and examples of the theme of friendship, the setting and its importance, and any symbolism.

2. **Weekly Shorts: 5 points**

3. **Journal:** Respond briefly to the following observations. In addition, be sure to respond with your personal reactions to the story so far. **10 points**

   - ❑ Nearly all of the characters in both books are disempowered in some way. Identify each and what type of "disempowerment" or "disability" each has.
   - ❑ This section of the book has many instances of foreshadowing. Identify these instances and what they might foreshadow.