

LITERARY ANALYSIS: FORESHADOWING

What is it that makes you want to continue reading a story? Sometimes writers build excitement and curiosity by providing a hint about something that will happen later in the story. This hint is known as **foreshadowing**. Foreshadowing may appear in

- what the characters say (*"I wish we could play with him every day."*)
- what the characters do (*Don came home very late and grim-faced.*)
- descriptions of setting (*narrow, steep, twisting hillroad*)

As you read "Lob's Girl," look for examples of foreshadowing.

READING SKILL: IDENTIFY SEQUENCE

A story's events are presented in a specific order, or **sequence**. Certain words and phrases can help you identify the sequence of events, such as

the next day at half-past nine at the same moment
by that afternoon then a few minutes later

As you read, record the story's sequence of events on a timeline like the one shown. Above each event, record the clue words or phrases that signal it.



VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

The boldfaced words help Joan Aiken tell the story of a very determined dog. To show how many you already know, provide a definition for each boldfaced word.

1. The **agitated** owner searches for his lost pet.
2. When they see the dog, the children **erupt** with joy.
3. The dog is **reluctant** to leave his new friends.
4. As he turns to leave, the dog looks **melancholy**.
5. The dog licks his owner as if to **atone** for running away.
6. He runs **decisively** toward his beloved new owner.

Spinner of Tales

Joan Aiken grew up in England and was home-schooled by her mother until the age of 12. Since she was often alone as a child, she had trouble making friends when she left home for boarding school. Spending most of her free time writing, she completed her first novel by the time she was 16.



Joan Aiken
1924–2004

Royal Recognition As an adult, Aiken became famous for writing stories full of suspense, mystery, delightfully bad villains, charming heroes and heroines, and spooky surprises. In 1999 Queen Elizabeth II made Aiken a member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her contributions to children's literature.



MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For more on Joan Aiken, visit the Literature Center at ClassZone.com.

Background

A Fishing Village Life in a fishing village revolves around the sea, and many of the village residents are fishermen. Some fishermen stay out at sea for days, while others set out each morning or evening, depending on the tide and weather. Tourism provides other jobs for the villagers. Tourists are attracted to the unspoiled beauty of the coastline and the charm of the village. In "Lob's Girl," the daughter of a fisherman meets a tourist who changes her life forever.