



# TEACHER PAGE FLASHBACKS

## ILLUMINATING THE PAST TO BRIGHTEN THE PRESENT!

**GRADE LEVEL:** 5–8      **SUBJECT:** Language Arts      **DURATION:** One 40-minute class period, one homework assignment

**NATIONAL STANDARD:** Language Arts, Standard 6: Applying knowledge

**MATERIALS:** Writing journals

*Use this lesson to have students define flashback and identify several examples in *Holes*.*

### DESCRIPTION

A flashback is a literary device used to show the audience something that occurred before the story. It is used to help us better understand what is happening now or to make us think differently about why certain events and decisions are occurring.

### OBJECTIVES

- To define flashback
- To demonstrate an understanding of flashback as a literary device by identifying scenes in *Holes* where flashback is used
- To use understanding of flashback in a short, original creative writing piece

### ADAPTATIONS

None needed

### ASSESSMENTS

Design a five-point rubric to assess students on their demonstrated understanding of the term flashback as indicated by their choice of scene or event from *Holes*. Assess understanding through the use of a flashback scene in their creative piece. How well does the flashback scene help us understand the story? Is the story made clearer or more intriguing as a result of the scene's addition?

### EXTENSIONS

Define foreshadowing as a literary term. Ask students to point to places in *Holes* where foreshadowing as a literary device is put to use.

### PROCEDURES

1. Write the definition of flashback on the board or overhead projector. Ask students to copy the definition in their journals.
2. Review with students some examples of flashbacks from *Holes*.
3. Instruct students to respond to the following writing prompt:  
*Describe flashback and explain how it is used in telling the story, Holes.*
4. For homework, have students write a two to three-page creative short story with one flashback scene.



### USEFUL RESOURCES

*3 Tips for Writing Successful Flashbacks*, by Nancy Kress: [www.writersdigest.com/articles/column/kress/flashbacks.asp](http://www.writersdigest.com/articles/column/kress/flashbacks.asp)

Writeguide.com's Letter Writing Program – Lesson Four: [www.writeguide.com/Lesson%20Four%20-%20Flashbacks.PDF](http://www.writeguide.com/Lesson%20Four%20-%20Flashbacks.PDF)

*A Dictionary of Literary Devices: Gradus, A-Z*, by Bernard Dupriez, Albert W. Halsall (Translator), University of Toronto Press, 1991.