**Adding Scenes from the Past and Future**

**Writers sometimes move their characters forward or backward in time or place in order to show what their stories are really about.**

**Let’s revisit the story about Luka. Remember, the story is about the writer’s relationship with her sister.**

**Flashback**

**First, she decides to put in a flashback to the time when Luka joined her family, and her sister’s role in the event, to show that her sister is always there when she needs help.**

**Next, she returns to the present, standing with her sister at the rock.**

*“Luka!” I yelled as he ran into my legs. “Silly dog!” I huffed. He had too much energy for his own good. He looked up cheerfully, tongue hanging recklessly out of the side of his mouth. Then he bounded down the field, all his muscles rippling. “Why do I have to take him for his walks?” I grouched silently, shivering in the cold wind, and thinking of my warm bed.*

*It was then that I heard the sounds. There was a screech, a thud and a whine so full of pain that my heart stopped beating.*

*“What . . . Where . . . Where’s Luka?” I didn’t know my older sister was running through the field behind me until I heard her panic-filled voice.*

*I turned to look at her but found I couldn’t answer, only shake my head. Together we ran until we were beside the furry body that had curled into itself, now heaving gently.*

*“Luka?” I heard my voice break as I knelt beside him. His eyes had never looked like this, glazed with shock, as if he couldn’t see me at all. My sister, too, was talking – softly. Her face as she bent close to Luka was white. “It’s okay . . . It’s okay . . . It’s going to be okay,” she murmured. Her hand came up to hold my shoulder and I realized it was me, not Luka, that she was trying to comfort.*

*Later, I took off my warm jacket and wrapped his stiffening body in it and together, my sister and I carried him back across the field that he had run through so joyfully that morning. I stopped near one of the big rocks that Luka and I had often sat on. My sister looked at me in confusion. “Here,” I told her simply, gesturing to the ground beside the rocks. She didn’t ask me any questions, just nodded and mumbled, “I’ll get the shovel.”*

*As she walked off, my mind drifted back to the time we’d first seen Luka at the shelter – how he’d pushed his wet nose through the cage, into my small hand. Still too little for sentences then, I had just smiled and said, “Doggie.” It was my sister who’d called out, “Hey dad, we found the one.”*

*The sound of shoveling snapped me out of my thoughts. My sister was bent over the spot I’d indicated, digging a hole. I reached out and hugged her from behind. I could feel her body shake. “Thank you,” I mumbled into her ear, as we cried together.*

Flash Forward

Give a thumbs up when you hear the story jump into the future. Then, again, when the story jumps back to the present.

From The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros:

Your abuelito is dead, Papa says early one morning in my room. And then, as if he just heard the news himself, crumples like a coat and cries, my brave Papa cries. I have never seen my Papa cry and don’t know what to do.

I know he will have to go away, that he will take a plane to Mexico, all the uncles and aunts will be there, and they will have a black-and-white photo taken in front of the tomb with flowers shaped like spears in a white vase because this is how they send the dead away in that country.

Because I am the oldest, my father has told me first, and now it is my turn to tell the others. I will have to explain why we can’t play. I will have to tell them to be quiet today.

My Papa, his thick hands and thick shoes, who wakes up tired in the dark, who combs his hair with water, drinks his coffee, and is gone before we wake, today is sitting on my bed.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ September 22, 2016

Adding Scenes from the Past and Future

Here is the part of my story I selected where I will add a scene from the past (flashback), or a scene from the future (flash forward):

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TO DO LIST

* Ask yourself, “What is my story really about?”
* Select a part of your story where you need to revise to SHOW what your story is really about
* Add a flashback or flash forward
* Include a transition to bring the reader back to the present