

Name _____

Date _____

Add a Flashback to a Story

A **flashback** is a literary device used to interrupt the chronological flow of a story in order to show events that happened earlier.

Key Characteristics of Flashbacks

Placement: Flashbacks can occur **at any point** in the story except the very beginning, as there needs to be enough context in the narrative to support the flashback.

Tense: Flashbacks are written **in the past tense**, as they describe events that already happened.

Purpose: Flashbacks must be engaging and provide important details that add depth to the story or character.

Clear Transitions: Introduce the flashback with a sentence or phrase signaling the time shift, and conclude it with a sentence that returns the reader to the present timeline.

Write a flashback for the story provided below. Use the sentence introducing the flashback as a starting point. Explain how the character gained his superpowers, and then return to the current moment in the story to continue the narrative.

Invisi-Man had to get into the secret room where the evil Lizard-Man was telling his gang how they were going to steal the diamonds. Feeling his fingers tingle, Invisi-Man remembered the fateful day he got his superpower ...

Flashback:

Return to Present:

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Add a Flashback to a Story – Answer Key

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Flashback:

The day was stormy, lightning flashing across the sky like jagged teeth. Young Marcus (before he became Invisi-Man) was running through the rain-soaked streets, clutching his science fair project—

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a device he had built to bend light and render objects invisible. Suddenly, a car screeched to a halt beside him, splashing water everywhere. The driver yelled for him to move, but Marcus slipped, falling into a puddle. The device in his backpack cracked open, releasing a strange burst of glowing energy.

Marcus felt a sharp pain in his hands, and then—nothing. He woke up hours later in the hospital, his hands shimmering slightly in the dim light. The doctor said everything looked fine, but Marcus knew something had changed. Days later, he discovered that he could make his entire body disappear simply by willing it. His light-bending invention had fused into his very DNA.

Return to Present:

Invisi-Man blinked back to the present moment. The tingling in his fingers reminded him of his unique gift, the power that had saved him countless times before. Taking a deep breath, he activated his invisibility and silently crept into the secret room, determined to stop Lizard-Man's evil plans.
