

“Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” by Ambrose Bierce
Foreshadowing Chart

In describing Farquhar’s escape, Bierce uses descriptive and figurative language to foreshadow the twist ending. In the left column, place quotes that hint at Farquhar’s ultimate fate. In the right column, explain how the quote foreshadows the ending.

Quote	Explanation

Name: _____

Pd: _____

Date: _____

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Analysis Questions

Respond to each of the following with a short, thoughtful paragraph (2-4 sentences).

1. Explain Bierce’s description of Farquhar’s ticking watch at the end of the first section. What does this say about his mental state?
2. Explain why Farquhar is being hanged. What was he trying to do? Why was he trying to do it?
3. What pains/feelings/sensations does Farquhar experience as he struggles not to drown? How might this foreshadow the ending?
4. After Farquhar escapes the river, he experiences a number of strange things on the shore and then in the woods. Explain one of these surreal images using a quote from the text. How does this foreshadow the ending?
5. Explain the ending of the story. Were you surprised?