

Lesson 4e: Interpreting literary terms

Goal 5.01c: Students will interpret literary devices such as allusion, symbolism, figurative language, flashback, dramatic irony, dialogue, diction, and imagery.

Literary Text: "The Lady or the Tiger" by Frank Stockton

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LadyTige.shtml>

Lesson Focus: Conflict and Irony

Guided Practice:

Read the definition of conflict read through the definition and then follow the link to the practice quiz.

internal conflict	a problem or struggle within a character
external conflict	a problem or struggle between a character and someone or something outside of the character

<http://www.dowlingcentral.com/MrsD/quizzes/literature/conflict.htm>

Now that you know the definitions and can identify conflict, consider how that conflict develops the plot of a story. Also, consider what universal issues the conflicts in stories can highlight.

Read the definition for irony and for the three main types of irony.

irony	the general name given to literary techniques that involve surprising, interesting, or amusing contradictions
verbal irony	words are used to suggest the opposite of their usual meaning or contradict their usual meaning
situational irony	an event occurs that directly contradicts the expectations of the character, the reader, or the audience (a surprise twist)
dramatic irony	a contradiction between what a character thinks and what the reader or audience knows to be true (we, the audience, know more than the character/s)

For practice, match each of the three types of irony with its example. The answers are below.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Situational | A. Key scenes in scary movies often feature characters going into locations where the audience knows that danger lurks. |
| 2. Verbal | B. In <u>Huckleberry Finn</u> , Huck attends church with two families who are in a brutal feud with each other. The sermon is on brotherly love and both families agree that it's a great sermon, but later on the same day break out in a fight and shoot each other. |
| 3. Dramatic | C. A boy makes a 47 on his test. The girl who sits next to him sees his grade and says, "Wow, you're a real genius." |

1:B 2:C 3:A

Independent Practice:

Follow the link to the short story, "The Lady or the Tiger." Record your observances of conflict and irony in the graphic organizers as you read. After you read and record, answer the questions below.

*** link graphic organizers 1 and 2 here***

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LadyTige.shtml>

Part One: Conflict

1. Which of the following represents an internal conflict in the story:
 - A. The King discovers his daughter's affair
 - B. Some who are put on trial face a ravenous tiger
 - C. The daughter hates the woman involved in her lover's trial
 - D. The daughter must decide which door to tell her lover to choose
2. Which of the following represents external conflict in the story:
 - A. The daughter's lover must decide whether to trust the daughter's advice
 - B. Those who choose the door with the lady must marry her regardless of their feelings
 - C. The King discovers his daughter's affair.
 - D. The daughter must decide which door to tell her lover to choose.
3. What universal issue does the daughter's conflict over which door to choose most likely highlight?
 - A. The power of jealousy
 - B. Humanity's love of violence
 - C. The power of a person's determination to gain knowledge
 - D. None of these

Part Two: Irony

4. Which of the following is the best example of situational irony in this story?
 - A. The king is well-read and semi-civilized which is why he established the "arena"
 - B. The lover will either be killed or be married
 - C. No matter how the Princess chooses, she cannot be with her lover.
 - D. The woman behind the door is one of whom the Princess is extremely jealous
5. Which of the following is the best example of dramatic irony in this story?
 - A. The audience doesn't know which door has the lady and which has the tiger
 - B. The Princess knows what is behind each door, but her lover does not.
 - C. The reader knows that the lady behind the door is the Princess' enemy, but her lover does not.
 - D. None of these
6. Which of the following is the best example of verbal irony in this story?
 - A. "...if innocent, he was rewarded on the spot, whether he liked it or not."
 - B. "It mattered not that he might already possess a wife and family, or that his affections might be engaged upon an object of his own selection."
 - C. "Of course, everybody knew that the deed with which the accused was charged had been done. He had loved the princess, and neither he, she, nor any one else, thought of denying the fact."
 - D. None of these
7. What universal idea is BEST uncovered by the author's use of irony?
 - A. Sometimes people must make hard decisions, but the right thing to do is always clear.
 - B. Sometimes the right thing to do becomes hidden behind other conflicts and personal desires.
 - C. Government leaders are usually cruel and seek to harshly dominate their subjects.
 - D. One should beware of the consequences of having affairs, especially with princesses

Closure:

Check your answers:

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. B

How did you do?

For each question that you missed, look at the correct response and think about why that response was the correct one. What element of the question did you miss when you answered incorrectly? How might you avoid making that same mistake in the future? If you did not miss any, congratulations! If you did miss a few, use the following tips when answering questions like these in the future:

1. **Read the question completely and all answers completely.** Sometimes you can answer incorrectly just because you didn't pay close attention to what the question was asking you for, or because you missed a detail in one of the responses. Take your time.
2. **Pay very close attention to questions that ask for the BEST or the MOST LIKELY answer.** In these questions, the test will often trick you because more than one answer could be correct. What you have to do in these circumstances is think which one is the best.