

Lesson —Literary Devices

Goal: 5.01c—Students will be able to identify literary devices such as irony and theme in an excerpt from literature.

Literature: “The Necklace”

Guided Practice:

IRONY is defined as the contrast between appearance and reality.

- 1) Access the following URL, which provides a short movie defining irony. Complete the graphic organizer as a study tool to outline a solid definition of irony.

http://hr014.k12.sd.us/products_multimedia.htm

(Access the first project entitled *Irony Video*)

**LINK IRONY ORGANIZER”

QUIZ YOURSELF:

In the following sentences, try to identify which type of irony is presented and make a commentary on why it qualifies as verbal, dramatic, or situational.

EX 1:

You are watching a horror movie and the killer comes in the back door. The frightened teenager inside thinks it would be a smart idea to run upstairs, while you know she should run out the front door and scream for help. Needless to say, she becomes the next victim. What type of irony is this?

EX 2:

In an argument with your mother, who reprimands you for being "smart," You reply sarcastically, "If you think I am smart, then why won't you let me make some smart decisions?" What type of irony is this?

EX 3:

You stay up all night cramming for your big final. When you show up the next day to take it, you find out that the test is actually next week. What type of irony is this?

If you answered in the following ways, or something along these lines, congratulate yourself!!!

- 1) Example 1 is **dramatic irony**. You, the audience knows that the killer has just come in the back door. Frightened by the prospect of someone breaking in, the teenager hides upstairs, and you wish you could yell to her to run out the front door. Thus, you, the audience, knows something that the members of the action do not—**DRAMATIC IRONY!**
- 2) Example 2 is **verbal irony**. When your mother called you “smart”, she was referring to you having a sarcastic tone in your voice rather than you being intelligent smart. You probably said something sarcastic, and when she reprimanded you for being smart, you again, said one thing and meant another. Hence—**VERBAL IRONY!**
- 3) Example 3 is **situational irony**. In studying and preparing for your exam, you anticipated that it was on a certain day. When you arrived to take your exam, you found out that it was actually the following week, thus, the outcome was different than you expected. Therefore—**SITUATIONAL IRONY!**

HOW DID YOU DO? Which type is most difficult to identify? Why?

Independent Practice:

Now after clearly defining irony and understanding the three types: verbal, dramatic, situational, read “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant and cite examples of irony. You may use a chart similar to the one you used during the video clip or you may create your own. Keep in mind that you need to identify the example, chart what type of irony it is, and be able to explain why.

Use the following URL to access an online copy of “The Necklace”

<http://www.bartleby.com/195/20.html>

After reading and charting your examples of irony, complete the following comprehension questions to test your knowledge. Please provide the **BEST** answer possible.

1. Madame Loisel refuses to attend the party given by the Minister of Education because she is:
 - A. too prideful to attend
 - B. too ashamed of her lowly social status and has nothing good to wear
 - C. upset that she does not have the perfect necklace
 - D. is too ill to attend
2. When she leaves the party, she thinks that for her, “it was all over.” Her statement demonstrates verbal irony because:
 - A. she will spend the rest of her life working two jobs to pay for the lost necklace
 - B. she will have an unexpected accident that will cost her the life she is accustomed to living
 - C. she will grow old quickly from overwork, bringing truth to her statement
 - D. all of the above
3. How does Madame Loisel’s anguish about borrowing the necklace turn out to be ironic?
 - A. She does not enjoy wearing the necklace.
 - B. No one notices her at the reception.
 - C. The necklace later causes her even more worry.
 - D. Madame Forestier hardly misses the necklace.

4. Madame Loisel is “full of a proud, simple joy” that she has replaced the necklace so perfectly. In what way is her feeling ironic?
 - A. Madame Loisel had thought she would never feel joy again.
 - B. Until then, she had felt inferior to Madame Forestier.
 - C. The necklaces turn out not to be so perfectly matched.
 - D. It was Madame Loisel’s pride that had ruined her.

5. Upon returning the necklace, Madame Forestier comments, ““Oh!—My poor Mathilde, how you are changed.” To which her friend replies, “Yes, I have had hard days since I saw you, and many troubles,—and that because of you.” The fact that Madame Loisel was once so worried about her appearance and is now so haggard and worn is an example of what kind of irony?
 - A. dramatic
 - B. verbal
 - C. situational

6. Which statement best summarizes the irony of this story?
 - A. Although a friend likes to be generous to another friend, the indebtedness can sour a friendship.
 - B. People overly concerned with appearances can be undone by appearances.
 - C. A couple loses everything when they attempt to mix in wealth with society.
 - D. A person born into wealth seldom struggles to stay wealthy.

Closure:

Now, go back and check your answers:

- 1) B
- 2) D
- 3) C
- 4) D
- 5) C
- 6) B

How did you do? What difficulty are you having with identifying irony? Consult your notes for further clarification.