

IRONY AND HUMOR

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Irony

“a term which has a range of meanings that all involve some sort of discrepancy or incongruity.”

- Irony is not just sarcasm, it helps convey a truth about human experience.
- Used in POETRY
- Suggest complex meaning without stating them

EXAMPLE:

- *“the name of Britain’s biggest dog was ‘Tiny’.”*

Susannah



IRONY
It just happens.

Verbal Irony

“is a figure of speech in which the speaker says the opposite of what he or she intends to say”

- Used to create sarcasm

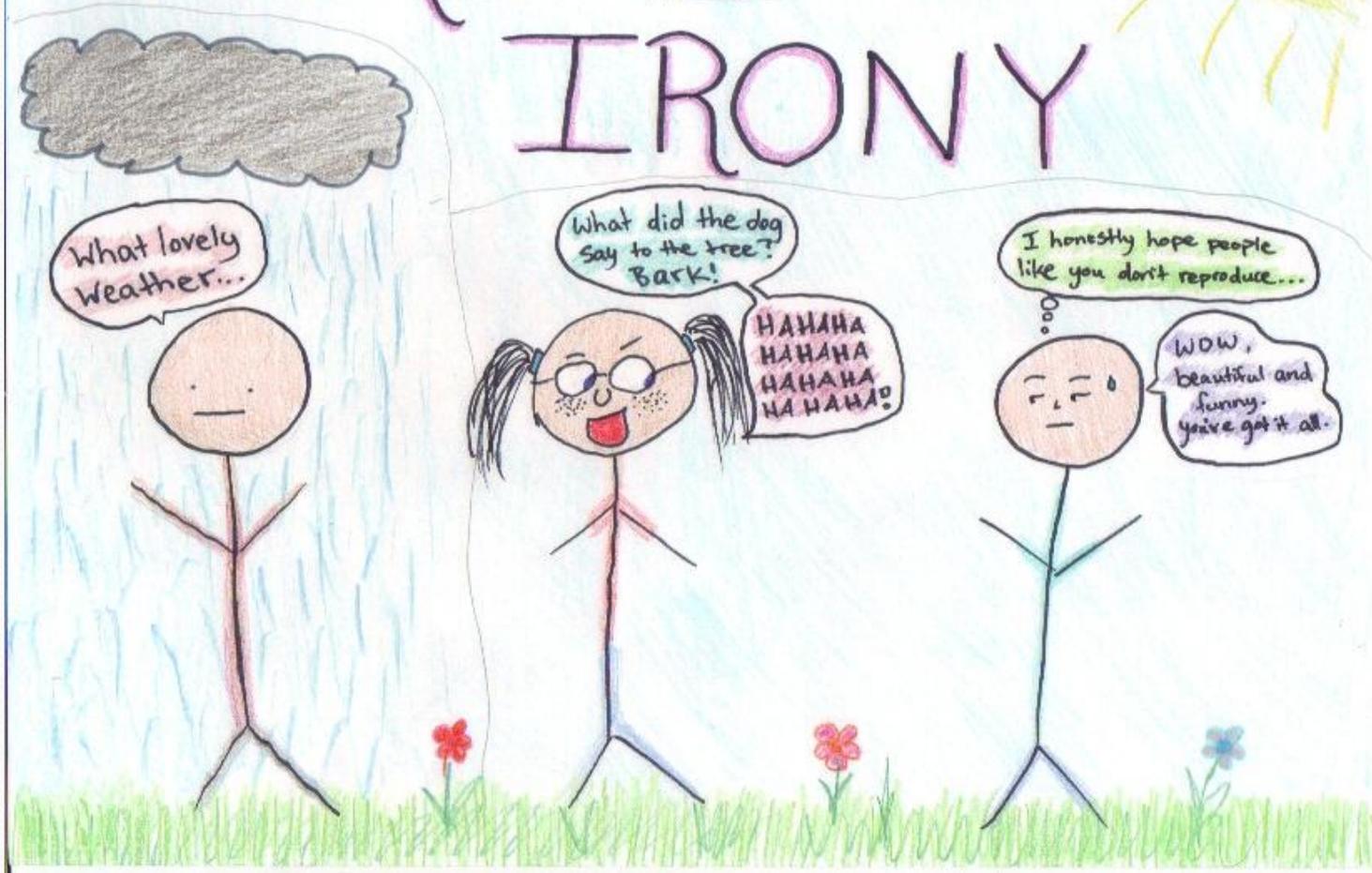
EXAMPLE:

- *“In ‘Hunters in the Snow’, when Kenny says to Tub, ‘You’re just wasting away before my very eyes,’ he is speaking ironically and sarcastically for or course is obese.”*

VERBAL

A figure of speech in which what is said is the opposite of what is meant.

IRONY



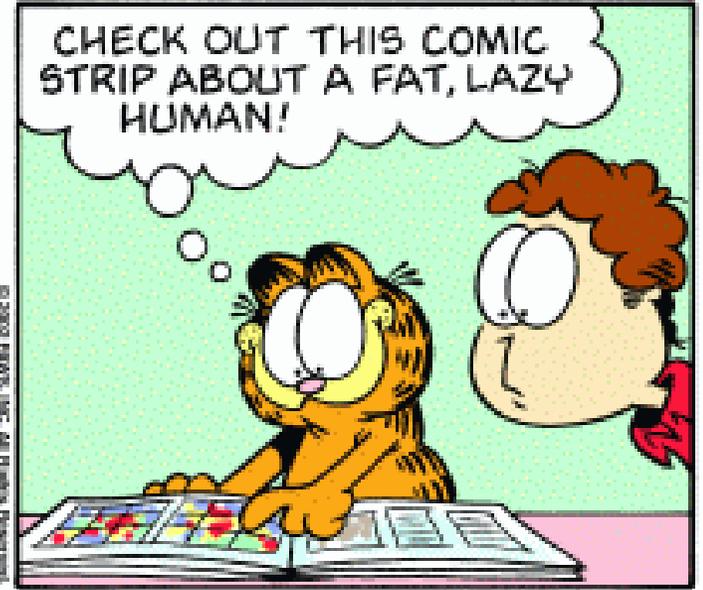
Dramatic Irony

“Contrast between what character says or thinks and what the reader knows to be true”

- Value lies in the truth it conveys about the character or character expectations.

EXAMPLE:

- *“In ‘How I Met My Husband,’ for instance, Loretta Bird says about Mrs. Peebles, ‘She wouldn’t find time to lay down in the middle of the day, if she had seven kids like I got.’ The reader grasps the irony of this remark, since Loretta herself often ‘finds time’ to sit gossiping at the Peebles farm instead of staying home with her children.”*



Irony of situation

“the discrepancy is between appearance and reality, or between expectation and fulfillment, or between what is what would seem appropriate”

- Most important to fiction writer

EXAMPLE:

- *“In ‘The Most Dangerous Game,’ it is ironic that Rainsford, ‘the celebrated hunter,’ should become the hunted, for tis is a reversal of his expected and appropriate role.”*

Thays

2 Situational Irony

Situational irony is when something happens and a reversal of expectations occurs.

The key is the **reversal**. For example:



The reversal: the armor, which was intended for protection, is what ended up causing harm.

Hey, that's not ironic!
The oatmeal is an idiot!

Think so? Keep reading.



Sentimentality

“contrived or excessive emotion by using carefully restrained, artful language and dramatized emotion”

- Cannot be produced by words that identify emotion. (sad, angry, pathetic)

EXAMPLE:

- *“Manufactured emotion, feelings which are thrust upon the rather than sprouting organically from plot and characterization. It’s an author flatly telling the reader how a character feels. ‘She had never been so sad in her life is a very simple, but apt, example’.”*

Susannah

Editorialize

“comment on the story and
instruct how to feel”

- Writer uses words to make a situation come to live.
- Used to make certain situations feel a certain way.
- **EXAMPLE:**
- **BEFORE** *“Since the registration procedure is poorly run, everyone’s schedule is wrong.”*
- **AFTER** *“My schedule is all screwed up, thanks to the poorly run registration process.”*

Poeticize

“similar to editorialize but it uses immoderately heightened language to accomplish the desired effect”

EXAMPLE:

- *the villain will be “ALL villain” including a laugh and a whip.*