

Literary Terms & Devices

How authors convey their message using language

Irony

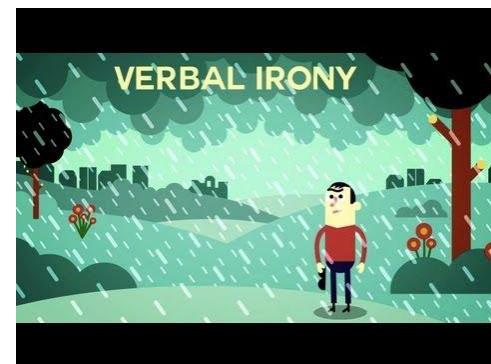
When the opposite of what is expected happens or is said.



Situational Irony



Verbal Irony



Dramatic Irony



Characterization

The way a writer reveals information about a character.



Direct Characterization

The writer TELLS the audience what the character is like.

Example: "The patient boy and quiet girl were both well mannered and did not disobey their mother."

Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The boy is "patient" and the girl is "quiet."

Indirect Characterization

The writer SHOWS things that reveal the personality of the characters.

- **SPEECH:** What does the character say? How does the character speak?
- **THOUGHTS:** What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
- **EFFECT ON OTHERS:** What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?
- **ACTIONS:** What does the character do? How does the character behave?
- **LOOKS:** What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

Dynamic vs. Static Characters



CHARACTER TYPES

PROTAGONIST, ANTAGONIST
ANTIHERO, FOIL

A Protagonist is...

The main character.
The person for whom
the reader roots.



An Antagonist is...

The opponent who
blocks or opposes the
protagonist.



An Antihero is...

When the protagonist lacks
conventional heroic attributes.
They could appear to be a
villain, but we empathize with
them anyways.



A Foil is...

A character who serves as a
direct contrast to another
character as a literary device
to emphasize the qualities of
the main character.

