Irony
Irony

* is a literary device in which words are used to express a contradiction between appearance and reality.

* in irony, reality is usually the opposite of what it seems.
There are three types of irony:

* Verbal
* Situational
* Dramatic
Verbal Irony

* is when a speaker or writer says one thing but actually means the opposite.
* For example, when your mom walks into your filthy bedroom and says, “I see you’ve cleaned your room!”
* Sarcasm is one type of verbal irony.
To find the verbal irony, ask yourself, what is really being said?

If what the person actually says is not exactly what the person really means, you likely have verbal irony.
Examples of Verbal Irony

* When someone says, “What a good driver you are!” When you just crashed into them.
* When you thank someone for doing something they didn’t do.
Situational Irony

* is when the outcome of a situation is inconsistent with what we expect would logically or normally occur.
  * It is the reverse of what we expect will be or happen.
  * For example, if a thief’s house was broken into at the same time he was robbing someone’s house.
To find the situational irony, ask yourself what were you expecting would happen or what did you expect it to be?

If the situation is something different than what we expect would happen or is the opposite of what you might expect someone would say or do, then it is likely situational irony.
Examples of Situational Irony

* A fire station catching on fire while the fire truck and firefighters are out fighting another fire.

* You comment on the beautiful weather you’ve been having just five minutes before a tornado rips through your house.
Dramatic Irony

* is when the audience or the reader is aware of something that a character does not know.

* For example, when Romeo believes Juliet is dead, but the audience knows that she has only been given a potion to sleep.
To identify dramatic irony, ask yourself what did you already know happened or was going to happen?
Examples of Dramatic Irony

* A character in a story only wants a quiet evening at home, but the reader knows that there is a surprise party waiting for him.

* When a character refuses to go to prom when the reader knows she will be elected prom queen.
Practice

* A rat infestation at the Department of Sanitation
* Type of Irony:
  * Situational
Mother: “I see you ironed your shirt.”
Boy: “But I just dug it out of the bottom of the hamper.”
Type of Irony:
  * Verbal (sarcasm)
A person Tweets about how Twitter is a waste of time and energy.

Type of Irony:
- Situational
In Shakespeare’s Hamlet, Hamlet stabs through a curtain thinking his traitorous, murdering uncle is there, only to learn that he actually stabbed and killed the father of the woman he loves, and a man for whom he had the utmost respect and admiration.

Type of Irony:
- Dramatic