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## Cosmic irony definition and examples

Irony occurs when what actually happens turns out to be completely different from what was expected. In writing or speech, irony involves the use of words, so the intended meaning is the opposite of literal meaning. The three main types of irony are: dramatic, situational and verbal, though there are also some other types. Review some irony examples that illustrate any other kind of irony. An ironic example of an ironic lapdog occurs when audiences know more about what's going on than the characters. This can create tension while the audience waits to see if the characters will understand what's going on before it's too late. Stories with an edict number often use dramatic irony as a literary technique. Roman's heroine visits her favorite coffee shop every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Her brother's best friend knows that and tries to find a way to ask her out on a date. The day he gets the courage to go to the café she's not there. The reader knows she's sick, but he's not. A woman thinks her boyfriend's going to break up with her because he's acting distracted and distant. Readers know he bought her an engagement ring and is nervous that she won't say yes. He calls her one afternoon and just says, I need to see you. Meet me in Columbus Square at 6:00. She's sure he'll break up with her. But when she arrives, he's set up a beautiful offering with a string quartet, dozens of roses, and a huge diamond sparkle. In Twilight, Edward is convinced that he is putting Bella in danger when readers know that she is actually in grave danger from others that only Edward can protect her from. In Macbeth, the main character looks loyal to Duncan. However, Macbeth is actually plotting Duncan's murder. Duncan doesn't know that, the audience knows. At the animal farm, the animals believe Boxer was sent to the hospital while readers constantly know the pigs actually sold it to the slaughterhouse. Dramatic irony increases the audience's anticipation, hopes or fears. As readers wait to see when the main character will catch on, tension builds and pages rotate. Review more dramatic ironic examples of more situations that represent this kind of irony. Situational irony occurs when something happens that is completely different from what was expected. Typically, these cases combine some kind of contradiction and some level of surprise or shock. In The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Dorothy and her friends seek outside powers to help them get what they need, but discover they've always had what they need. A man has been working hard for decades, spending little to save money for retirement. A week before his retirement, the person unexpectedly has a massive heart attack and dies. A man buys a gun to protect his home. During a burglary, an unarmed intruder wrestles a gun from the landlord and shoots him with his own gun. An ambulance driver speeds to the scene of a car crash. The victim's not bad. When the driver arrived at the scene, another car crashed into an ambulance causing him to hit the victim's car and deploy the airbag, causing her more injury than the first accident. An Hour's Story by Kate Chopin tells the story of a woman who discovered her husband had died. She felt a sense of freedom, thinking about her new life under his thumb. Suddenly, the husband returns (he was never dead) and she dies of shock. Each of these situations involves a turnaround of unexpected events. See more examples of situational irony for more illustrations of this kind of irony. Verbal irony occurs when a character says one thing, but says another. In the examples below, the words used to convey verbal irony are marked with bold type. A writer works on comedy. The weather was gloomy, making it difficult to create witty scenes. With the opening of the blinds to see dark clouds outside again, says the writer, great. Another rainy day. How wonderful. A woman's giant dog insists on sitting on her as she relaxes on the couch. The dog climbs up on her and she says, I'm so glad I have such a tiny lapdog. A man finishes a huge meal only for a friend to show up with pizza so they both share. The very full person says, wow, perfect timing. I just like watching the same cartoon five times every afternoon. It's such a pleasure. Oh, no, I can't eat another piece of cake. That's what my aunt said when she picked up another piece of cake and started eating it. To further explore this kind of irony, see examples of verbal irony. This kind of irony is often confused with sarcasm, though they weren't the same. Cynicism involves a demeaning day, with at least a bit of sinister digging instead of using words ironically (in reverse). Discover irony versus sarcasm for more insight. While dramatic, verbal and situational irony is considered the three main types of irony, they are not the only forms. Socratic irony involves pretending to be ignorant of the subject and asking questions to someone as a way to make them expose their ignorance or flaws in reason. This technique is commonly used in satire. Sacha Baron Cohen's satirical characters, such as Ali G and Borat, behaved foolishly to emphasize the ignorance and stupidity of those who spoke to them. Your parents pretend they don't know you hit the car. They ask you a series of seemingly innocent questions that eventually lead to your confession. This kind of irony has to do with the Socratic method used in teaching, although the purpose of investigating students in education is to encourage them to engage in critical thinking rather than trying to expose a lack of knowledge. Cosmic irony can be attributed to misfortune associated with fate or chance. The results are not due to the actions of characters, so an external force seems to have a hand in the situation. A class thug who picked on his overweight classmates throughout childhood is a registrar As an adult who causes extreme weight gain. The shyest girl is convinced that boys won't be interested in her and prefer her more outgoing friends. She becomes the first member of her team to be invited to the big ball. This type of irony is often seen in situations that can be described as karma, where a person is perceived as getting their reason (positive results as a result of previous difficulties or negative outcomes related to previous negative actions). Irony can be a wonderful literary tool to bring layers and texture to stories about tragedy, comedy or love. No one wants a story to be predictable and irony is nothing but. Especially if you're a fiction writer, don't be afraid to keep your readers guessing. When you use irony in your work, readers may simply be so involved that they will want to take more journeys with you in your future. To get some ideas for further improvement of your writing, check out more tips on how to keep your reader occupied. Education education has many kinds of irony out there. Within the main branch of situational irony lies a version with a twist – cosmic. The main impulse of this series is to get writers to embrace irony as a tool that will add a level of depth and nuance to their work. How do you define cosmic irony? In this episode, we're going to talk specifically about the most fateful form of irony. The irony occurs when the reality of a situation is the opposite of what was expected. There are 3 types of irony and many subcategories within these main branches. Cosmic irony belongs under the situational irony category and has its own specific quality that separates it from other versions. What is it, how does it work, and how can writers understand that? Let's start with defining cosmic irony. Cosmic irony occurs when a higher power (e.g., God, destiny, the universe) intervenes to create an ironic state. This idea of interference can be real or concluded. In other words, there are obvious examples of cosmic irony when a mystical intervener was involved. But there are also examples that seem to be supernaturally affected, or are vague enough for the argument to be made. In pulp fiction, Jule assumes that God stopped the bullets when he and Vincent were shot and live. When Aladdin is made a rich man by the genie, only for Jasmine to reject him. In y'all Bruce, Bruce accepts God's powers, but instead of making life better, he makes it worse. There are a lot of examples of cosmic irony in movies. These can range from more literal examples, such as in faith-based films, to other genres like horror, comedy and drama. Naturally, the presence of cosmic irony in these different genres serve different purposes. For example, cosmic irony is used for humor, commentary on the human condition, or to teach important lessons. With these cosmic irony examples, we can understand its complexity, and how valuable it is in Gore's ironic twist To use the irony of fate for character growth One of the most common applications of cosmic irony is to push the character to learn an important lesson. Consider aladdin's example above. Being true to yourself, and appreciating kindness over wealth are simplistic ideas, ideally suited to children's films. But that doesn't mean adults don't have to learn similar lessons from time to time. How about one of Jim Carrey's early classics, Liar Liar (1997)? He plays a lawyer who keeps lying, especially his own son. It is then cursed by an untitled higher power and loses the ability to lie. It's a perfect example of cosmic irony. By the end of his day of truth, Carrie's character has passed the juicer, but becomes a more honest man. Again, this kind of irony doesn't always have to be so obvious but it's a great example of our goals here. Irony of fate on ScaleLet Global cosmic irony speak to humanity just as individual characters can learn lessons through the power of cosmic irony, our species itself can do the same. For example, in the latest sci-fi film Arrival (2016), the mere presence of aliens creates a potentially devastating situation. If we consider aliens to be a higher power (i.e., the cosmic one), where is the irony? The reaction to the alien invasion is seen as a threat. Eventually, they're here to save us from ourselves. The irony is that aliens are both the problem and the solution. Also, for another layer of irony, Dr. Banks (Amy Adams) is more successful at communicating with the aliens than the different nations in communicating with each other. Movies like Arrival, and it's multilayered and used for irony, is proof that it can be applied in a much more sophisticated and nuanced way. UP NEXTDive Deeper into the irony we covered the basics of cosmic irony but there is so much to learn. If there's a certain form of irony you want to explore further, just follow the navigation below. Each of these sub-ironies belongs to every writer's toolkit. Related: Literary Devices Devices

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