

## Breaking Down Types of Irony

<http://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/education/literature/types-of-irony>

- Verbal: The use of words to mean something different than what they appear to mean.
- Situational: The difference between what is expected to happen and what actually happens.
- Dramatic: When the audience is more aware of what is happening than a character.

### Examples Of Irony From Literary Classics

Example of Verbal Irony: *The Cask of Amontillado*, by Edgar Allen Poe

A prime example of verbal irony in *The Cask of Amontillado* is when an unsuspecting Fortunato is being lead to his death by his former acquaintance Montresor. As Montresors lure him into the catacombs, he questions Fortunato about his well-being. Montresor notices Fortunato has a cough, which is growing more severe the further down the catacombs they travel. He asks if Fortunato would like to turn back. Fortunato replies “I shall not die of a cough.” Montresor knowingly replies, “True –true.” The audience finds out at the end that this was in fact use of verbal irony. Montresor appeared to mean that the cough was harmless, but what he was also saying was that he planned to kill Fortunato.

	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
VERBAL IRONY	<p>When a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to mean the opposite of the literal meaning.</p>	<p>This is verbal irony since Montresor was planning on killing him, he knew his cough would not.</p>

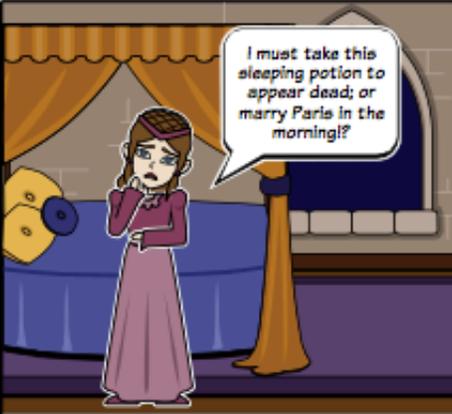
## Situational Irony: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

In *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, Pip and the audience both do not know who his benefactor is. Throughout the novel the reader is lead to believe that the benefactor is indeed the rich Miss. Havisham. Through her actions and the coincidences of Pip residing and being tutored by the Pockets, her cousins, the reader expects it to be her. Eventually, Magwich, the convict Pip showed kindness to at a young age, is revealed to be Pip's true benefactor. This revelation clashes with the expectations of Pip and the audience, generating situational irony.

	DEFINITION	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
SITUATIONAL IRONY	 <p>... Miss. Havisham always lead me on to believe it was her? After all she is rich!</p> <p>...Oh no my benefactor is a convict... Bentley Drummel will laugh me out of town!</p> <p>Actions that have an effect that are opposite from what is expected. In this novel both the reader and Pip expect Miss Havisham to be the benefactor because she is wealthy and always lead him to believe it was her.</p>	 <p>Miss Havisham: "You want to be a gentleman do you? Studying with my nephew, in London? I wonder WHO could have made this happen?"</p>	 <p>Abel Magwitch: "Pip my name is Able Magwich and I was the convict you helped in the marshes and I'm your benefactor."</p>

Example of Dramatic Irony: *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet is forced to take a sleeping potion in order to escape marrying Paris. She must do this because she is already married to the banished Romeo. When Romeo hears she is dead, the audience knows she is alive. He then kills himself and as Juliet awakes she sees him dead and takes her life as well. The audience knows it all could have been prevented if the Friar's letter had gotten to Romeo, making the tale all the more tragic.

	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<b>DRAMATIC IRONY</b>	 <p data-bbox="814 876 1266 998">Dramatic Irony is when the audience/reader has more knowledge of events than the characters.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1308 876 1759 998">This is dramatic irony because we know what Romeo doesn't: that Juliet is just sleeping.</p>