Irony and Humor
Irony

Irony is about expectations

Irony is a statement that intends to express the opposite of what was stated.
Types of Irony
Verbal Irony

A character says one thing but means the opposite

Also called *sarcasm* or being *sarcastic*.

Examples

*The locker room smells really good.*
Honey, your room is absolutely beautiful. I’ve never been prouder of you than right now!
Dramatic Irony

When the reader understands more about the events of a story than a character.

You know something that a character doesn’t.

Example

Tim’s parents are proud of the “A” he got on the test, but we know he cheated.
Nearly every horror movie needs Dramatic Irony to work!

- We know what’s coming…but the guy in the tie doesn’t. Dramatic Irony creates suspense!
Situational Irony

When what actually happens is the opposite of what is expected.

Something about the situation is completely unexpected.
SOME PEOPLE ARE SO POOR, ALL THEY HAVE IS MONEY
Learning is a gift.
Even when pain is your teacher.
You break a date with your girlfriend so you can go to the ball game with the guys. When you go to the concession stand, you run into your date who is with another guy.
Other terms you need to know:

- **Sentimentality** – stories that try to elicit easy or unearned emotional responses as genuine emotion.
Sentimental Writers

• **Editorialize** – comment on the story and, in a manner, instruct us how to feel.

• **Poeticize** – use an immoderately heightened and distended language to accomplish their effects.

• **Make excessively selective use of detail.**
  – For example, the most innocent and sweet characters always die or suffer, rather than the more complicated or unlikeable characters.

• **Rely heavily on stock response** – an emotion that has at its source the facts established by the story.
  – For example, babies, grandmothers, young love, patriotism, worship, etc.
Something that is **ironic** is unexpected.

If unexpected by a **character**, it’s **dramatic**.
If unexpected by **everyone**, it’s **situational**.
If it’s **sarcasm**, it’s **verbal**.
That's all Folks!