Irony

Irony: A contradiction between appearance or expectation and reality.

1. Verbal irony is when a speaker says one thing and means something else or the opposite.

2. Dramatic irony is when an audience knows something that a character in the literature does not know.

3. Situational irony is a difference between the expected result and actual results.

"You're right in berating me, ma'am, as I personally decided the price of each entree."

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Examples:

***Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry:** A poor couple cannot afford to buy each other Christmas presents. She sells her hair to buy him a chain for his heirloom pocket watch. He sells his watch to buy her a set of combs for her hair.

President Ronald Reagan: During an attempted assassination of the President, all shots missed Reagan. The sixth shot ricocheted off the Presidential bullet-proof limo and struck Reagan in the chest. He survived.

Greek Mythology: There was a prophecy that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother. His father abandoned him as a baby and left him to die in order to prevent the prophecy from coming true. It still happened despite his efforts because Oedipus didn't die and didn't know the true identity of his parents.

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Examples of Irony in *Lord of the Flies*

1. The parachutist.

Ralph and Piggy wish for adults to come help them and tell them what to do.

"If only they could get a message to us. If only they could send us something grownup…a sign or something" (94).

Then, a dead parachutist from the war arrives on the island.

What kind of irony is this?

- It's dramatic irony because we know that it is a dead parachutist from the war, but the boys think it is the Beast.
- It's situational irony because the boys expect that an adult would help them, but that is not the actual result.

2. Simon's death

Simon figures out that the Beast from Air is actually just a dead man.

Simon rushes to tell the boys the truth so they won't be scared of the Beast anymore.

The boys kill the Beast.

The Beast is actually Simon.

What kind of irony is this?

- It's dramatic irony because we know that it's not the Beast, but Simon that the boys are killing.
- It's situational irony for Simon because he expects to bring good news that the Beast is really just a dead man, but the actual result is that they think he's the Beast and end up killing him.