

Irony in Literature Examples

1. **"Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare** Irony: Romeo kills himself because he believes Juliet is dead, but she's actually alive.
2. **"Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen** Irony: Elizabeth Bennet initially despises Mr. Darcy, only to fall in love with him later.
3. **"Animal Farm" by George Orwell** Irony: The pigs claim to want equality but become dictators themselves.
4. **"Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles** Irony: Oedipus tries to avoid his fate but ends up fulfilling it.
5. **"The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald** Irony: Gatsby gains wealth to win Daisy, but his wealth is ultimately what keeps them apart.
6. **"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee** Irony: The jury convicts Tom Robinson, an innocent man, while letting the real culprit go free.
7. **"Lord of the Flies" by William Golding** Irony: The children are rescued by a naval officer who represents the very adult world that is at war, contradicting the idea of "civilized" adults.
8. **"1984" by George Orwell** Irony: The Ministry of Truth is responsible for propaganda and altering history.
9. **"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson** Irony: The prize of the lottery is actually a death sentence.

10. **"Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley** Irony: The society seeks to eliminate suffering but in doing so, also eliminates human experiences and emotions.
11. **"The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger** Irony: Holden Caulfield despises phoniness but is often phony himself.
12. **"Moby Dick" by Herman Melville** Irony: Captain Ahab is consumed by his obsession to kill Moby Dick, which ultimately leads to his downfall.
13. **"Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte** Irony: Heathcliff becomes wealthy and socially elevated, only to find that it brings him no happiness.
14. **"The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne** Irony: Reverend Dimmesdale is the most honored man in town, but he's the one who has committed adultery.
15. **"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte** Irony: Mr. Rochester, who is flawed and imperfect, is the one who brings Jane the most happiness.
16. **"Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury** Irony: A fireman who is supposed to burn books becomes an advocate for preserving them.
17. **"The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe** Irony: Fortunato is dressed as a jester, but the joke is ultimately on him.
18. **"Macbeth" by William Shakespeare** Irony: Macbeth kills the king to gain the throne but loses everything in the process.
19. **"Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley** Irony: Dr. Frankenstein becomes a victim of his own creation.
20. **"Heart of Darkness" by Joseph Conrad** Irony: The civilized Europeans are the ones who display the most savagery.
21. **"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain** Irony: Huck believes he's immoral for helping Jim, a slave, but he is actually doing something moral.

- 22. "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes** Irony: Don Quixote fights against imaginary enemies, thinking he's a heroic knight.
- 23. "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare** Irony: Hamlet's feigned madness leads to actual madness around him.
- 24. "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde** Irony: Dorian Gray remains young and beautiful, but his portrait becomes increasingly grotesque.
- 25. "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson** Irony: Dr. Jekyll tries to separate good from evil but becomes the embodiment of evil himself.
- 26. "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut** Irony: Despite knowing the future, Billy Pilgrim is powerless to change it.
- 27. "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller** Irony: Willy Loman believes success is based on being well-liked, but he is not well-liked himself.
- 28. "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift** Irony: The tiny Lilliputians consider themselves a grand empire.
- 29. "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde** Irony: The characters are anything but earnest, despite the title.
- 30. "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck** Irony: George kills Lennie to save him from a worse fate.
- 31. "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift** Irony: The proposal to eat babies is presented as a logical solution to overpopulation and poverty.
- 32. "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" by Ken Kesey** Irony: McMurphy, who fakes insanity to escape prison labor, becomes a true victim of the mental institution.
- 33. "Beloved" by Toni Morrison** Irony: Sethe kills her own daughter to save her from the horrors of slavery, but the act haunts her life.

- 34. "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller** Irony: The only way to be considered insane is to ask for a mental evaluation, but asking for it proves you're sane.
- 35. "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell** Irony: Scarlett O'Hara spends her life pining for Ashley, only to realize she loves Rhett Butler when it's too late.
- 36. "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini** Irony: Amir tries to find redemption for betraying Hassan by rescuing Hassan's son, who turns out to be his half-brother.
- 37. "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway** Irony: The old man catches the biggest fish of his life, only for it to be eaten by sharks.
- 38. "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller** Irony: The witch trials aim to purify the community but instead corrupt it further.
- 39. "The Sun Also Rises" by Ernest Hemingway** Irony: Jake Barnes fights in a war to defend civilization, only to find that civilization is lost when he returns home.
- 40. "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston** Irony: Janie searches for love and freedom but finds them only after multiple oppressive relationships.
- 41. "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens** Irony: Sydney Carton sacrifices himself for the woman he loves, only to find peace in his own death.
- 42. "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath** Irony: Esther seeks professional success but finds herself increasingly confined by societal expectations.
- 43. "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens** Irony: Pip's true benefactor turns out to be a criminal, not the high society he admired.
- 44. "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo** Irony: Javert, the law enforcer, finds himself breaking the law to maintain his sense of justice.

- 45. "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison** Irony: The protagonist becomes more visible in society when he chooses to become invisible.
- 46. "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas** Irony: Edmond Dantès seeks revenge but finds it brings him little satisfaction.
- 47. "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov** Irony: Humbert Humbert portrays himself as a victim, while he is the true predator.
- 48. "Beowulf"** Irony: Beowulf defeats Grendel and his mother but is killed by a dragon, considered a lesser creature.
- 49. "The Odyssey" by Homer** Irony: Odysseus's intelligence often puts him in the tricky situations he must then cleverly escape from.
- 50. "Crime and Punishment" by Fyodor Dostoevsky** Irony: Raskolnikov believes that killing the pawnbroker would be a just act but finds himself tormented by guilt.
- 51. "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams** Irony: Blanche seeks a new life but ends up destroying it with her own illusions.
- 52. "The Stranger" by Albert Camus** Irony: Meursault is emotionally detached but is judged for not conforming to societal emotional norms.
- 53. "Maus" by Art Spiegelman** Irony: A story about the Holocaust is told using mice and cats, trivializing the gravity in a powerful way.
- 54. "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott** Irony: Jo, who values her independence, finds love when she isn't seeking it.
- 55. "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck** Irony: The Joads leave for California seeking a better life but find more hardship.
- 56. "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien** Irony: Soldiers carry physical items to help them survive, but it's the emotional baggage that weighs them down.

57. **"The Sound and the Fury" by William Faulkner** Irony: The Compson family prides itself on its heritage but is plagued by its own decline.
58. **"East of Eden" by John Steinbeck** Irony: Characters struggle between good and evil, only to find that they have a choice in what they become.
59. **"As I Lay Dying" by William Faulkner** Irony: The family's journey to bury their mother ends up exposing their own moral and emotional corpses.
60. **"Life of Pi" by Yann Martel** Irony: Pi survives with a tiger in the lifeboat, but the tiger is also what keeps him alive.
61. **"Middlemarch" by George Eliot** Irony: Dorothea's quest for a life of the mind leads her to a stifling marriage.
62. **"Anna Karenina" by Leo Tolstoy** Irony: Anna seeks love as an escape but becomes a prisoner of her own choices.
63. **"Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse** Irony: Siddhartha leaves his home seeking enlightenment but finds it back near his home, in a simple river.
64. **"The Catch-22" by Joseph Heller** Irony: Soldiers must prove they are insane to be excused from combat, but wanting to leave proves their sanity.
65. **"The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair** Irony: Jurgis goes to America for a better life but is consumed by the very system he hoped would save him.
66. **"The Inferno" by Dante Alighieri** Irony: Sinners are punished in ways that mirror the sins they committed.
67. **"All Quiet on the Western Front" by Erich Maria Remarque** Irony: Young soldiers go to war thinking it's glorious but find it to be a horrific ordeal.
68. **"Finnegans Wake" by James Joyce** Irony: The book is about a dream, yet its language makes it difficult for the reader to dream along.

- 69. "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin** Irony: Edna's pursuit of freedom leads her to the ultimate bondage: death.
- 70. "Bleak House" by Charles Dickens** Irony: The endless lawsuit Jarndyce and Jarndyce consumes the lives and resources of those hoping to benefit from it.
- 71. "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood** Irony: A society that claims to value women for their fertility oppresses them in every other way.
- 72. "To the Lighthouse" by Virginia Woolf** Irony: Mrs. Ramsay seeks to unite people but often feels isolated herself.
- 73. "The Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane** Irony: Henry flees from battle but is later admired as a hero.
- 74. "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams** Irony: Laura's glass animals, meant to represent beauty and fragility, become a symbol of her own limitations.
- 75. "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley** Irony: A society built to eliminate suffering eliminates individuality and emotion.
- 76. "The Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Bulgakov** Irony: The Devil comes to Moscow and reveals the moral decay of so-called respectable citizens.
- 77. "The Plague" by Albert Camus** Irony: The plague, a deadly disease, reveals the best and worst in people.
- 78. "Ethan Frome" by Edith Wharton** Irony: Ethan wants to escape his miserable life but ends up more trapped after the accident.
- 79. "Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austen** Irony: The sister who relies on sense falls passionately in love, while the emotional one makes a sensible match.
- 80. "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen** Irony: Darcy and Elizabeth both pride themselves on their judgment but misjudge each other initially.

- 81. "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville** Irony: Captain Ahab's obsession with conquering the white whale leads to his and his crew's demise.
- 82. "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte** Irony: Heathcliff's revenge destroys him as much as it does those he seeks to harm.
- 83. "Madame Bovary" by Gustave Flaubert** Irony: Emma Bovary dreams of a glamorous life, only to be brought down by the very things she coveted.
- 84. "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro** Irony: The students are raised to be organ donors, but they are the most human characters in the story.
- 85. "The Trial" by Franz Kafka** Irony: Josef K. is put on trial for an unnamed crime, reflecting the absurdity of bureaucratic systems.
- 86. "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams** Irony: The answer to the ultimate question of life is 42, but the question is never known.
- 87. "Birdsong" by Sebastian Faulks** Irony: A novel about the ugliness of war is written in beautiful prose.
- 88. "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck** Irony: The Joad family heads West for a better life but find more suffering.
- 89. "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold** Irony: Susie is more alive in death than she was in life, affecting those she left behind.
- 90. "Animal Farm" by George Orwell** Irony: The pigs claim to liberate the animals but end up oppressing them.
- 91. "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys** Irony: Antoinette is married off to achieve financial stability but ends up imprisoned in madness.
- 92. "Dubliners" by James Joyce** Irony: Characters seek escape from Dublin but find themselves more entrenched in their mundane lives.

- 93. "The Leopard" by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa** Irony: The Prince seeks to preserve his aristocratic lifestyle but contributes to its demise.
- 94. "Dune" by Frank Herbert** Irony: Paul Atreides becomes a messiah to the Fremen but questions the role religion plays in politics.
- 95. "The Power and the Glory" by Graham Greene** Irony: A whisky priest becomes a symbol of faith and martyrdom.
- 96. "Brideshead Revisited" by Evelyn Waugh** Irony: Charles becomes entranced by the glamorous Flyte family but finds them to be morally and emotionally bankrupt.
- 97. "Labyrinths" by Jorge Luis Borges** Irony: Stories filled with complex ideas are presented in a straightforward, almost clinical style.
- 98. "Fight Club" by Chuck Palahniuk** Irony: The fight club aims to make men feel alive but ends up trapping them in a cycle of violence.
- 99. "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi** Irony: Marji seeks freedom in Europe but finds herself more isolated.
- 100. "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding** Irony: Children stranded on an island turn savage, showing the thin veneer of civilization.