

Name: _____

Identifying Irony 3

Directions: Read the following examples of irony. Determine which of the three types of irony are being used and then explain your answer.

Dramatic irony – This occurs when the reader or audience understands more about the events of a story than a character.
Situational irony – This occurs when what actually happens is the opposite of what is expected or appropriate.
Verbal irony – A character says one thing but really means the opposite.

1. While walking home from work, Lake Park Mall security guard Scott Thornton thought about his day. A shoplifter had outrun him, he had lost the keys to the golf cart, and a group of skateboarders had made fun of his weight. Things had not gone so well. Scott was so deep in thought that he did not even notice that he had stumbled on to a movie set. Lost in thought, he passed by trailers, cameras, and stagehands, yet he was unaware of the scene around him. When he came out of his daze, he looked up and saw a man who was wearing a ski mask waving a knife at an old lady. Figuring that the masked man was robbing the old woman, Scott bolted into action. He was so charged up with adrenaline that he did not even notice the cameraman filming him as he jump kicked the actor wearing the ski mask.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

2. Bobby began studying for the big math test on the bus ride home. He tried to study while walking home from the bus but recognized this as a bad idea after bumping into a lamppost. When he got home, he didn't watch any TV because he was studying so intensely. He completed the study guide that Mr. Morris gave him and then he completed one that he had made himself. Bobby stayed awake all through the night finding extra problems on the Internet and completing them. By the time the sun rose, Bobby had mastered the content. He felt prepared as he entered the classroom. He sharpened his pencil, sat at his desk, put his head down, fell asleep, and failed his test.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

3. I thought that my mother was going to flip out when Perry came over to eat at our house. To my surprise she just ignored him, even though he wore his hat, put his elbows on the table, and rocked back in his chair. I thought that she would go crazy when he pulled bones out of his mouth and put them on his plate instead of spitting them into a napkin. To my astonishment she looked past this too. But when Perry slammed a glass of root beer and burped the ABCs, she could restrain herself no longer. "What a wonderful rendition of the alphabet, Perry, and how age appropriate?" Perry wore a confused look, unsure of what her reaction had meant.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

4. When the first English settlers arrived at Jamestown, hygiene was not a priority. The settlers faced many challenges. Food was scarce, the land was unsuitable for farming, and relations with Native Americans were uneasy. Still, some settlers found time to care for their teeth by brushing them with rags and abrasive tooth powders. Archaeologists have examined the remains of these colonists. They discovered that many of the settlers were missing the enamel on their teeth. By using these tooth powders, the settlers had striped this protective layer from their teeth. This caused their teeth to decay.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

5. Kathy had never considered herself to be good with animals until she got a goldfish. *Taking care of fish is easy. You only have to feed them once a day.* Kathy thought to herself, as she put the bottle of goldfish food down by a bottle of rat poison. Kathy went on to have a productive day. When Kathy woke up the next day, she went to grab the bottle of fish food when her cell phone rang. Wondering who it could be, Kathy grabbed the bottle of rat poison instead of the fish food and did not notice it. The phone call turned out to be from her friend Mary. Kathy loved to talk with Mary. As she was chit-chatting away, she unscrewed the top of the rat poison bottle. It was about the same size as the bottle of fish food. "Oh, Mary, that's outrageous," Kathy said as she shook the bottle of rat poison into the fish tank. "He did?" She asked, as she put the top back on the rat poison bottle and put it down next to the fish food. "How could she?" She asked before going about with her day.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer:

6. As Harold carried his lunch tray passed Chuck, the school bully, Chuck stuck his foot into the aisle and attempted to trip Harold. Harold expected such an obstruction. He sidestepped around Chuck's leg saying, "Excuse me, Chuck, my fault entirely." Harold then continued back to his table and began eating his lunch. Chuck felt offended that Harold had not tripped and fallen on his food, so he marched back to Harold's table to put him in his place. Dipping his finger into Harold's school lunch, Chuck said, "What are you eating, puke?" Harold replied nervously, "Yes, well, I think that's what they serve here. Only the best for us students, right? Anyway, you're welcome to it." Chuck sneered and stuck his finger into Harold's chest, "I don't want any of your puke, Puke. Next time you fall when I trip you." He removed his finger from Harold's chest, grabbed Harold's cupcake from off of his lunch tray, and walked back to his table. "Good bye, Chuck. It's always a pleasure seeing you." He then released a sigh and ate around the fingerprint that Chuck had left in his casserole.

Which type of irony is used? _____

Explain your answer: