Irony:
Verbal, Situational, and Dramatic
Irony
(The general definition of)

- A contradiction between appearance and reality, between expectation and outcome, or between meaning and intention.

- Three different kinds of irony:
  - Verbal
  - Situational
  - Dramatic
Verbal Irony

- Occurs when someone says something that deliberately contradicts what that person actually means.

- Ex: *Positive connotations*- “My, you’ve certainly made a mess of things!” could be said to a hostess who presents a spectacular dish prepared with obvious care and skill.

- Ex: *Negative connotations*- Sarcasm. “Go ahead and keep sleeping during class, why don’t you?” could be said to a sleepy student even though the teacher clearly doesn’t want the student to keep sleeping.
Situational Irony

- Occurs when something happens that contradicts our expectation.
- Ex: “The Gift of the Magi” story
- Rock trio ZZ Top is famously associated with the chest-length beards of guitarist Billy Gibbons and bassist Dusty Hill. The group's drummer, who only has a mustache, happens to be named Frank Beard.
- A man jumps over a giant waterfall like Niagara Falls in a barrel and survives, only to take a clean-up shower where he slips on the soap and dies from trauma.
- Arnold Schwarzenegger, an actor famous for his violence in film, campaigning against violence in video games in general - which ironically includes those featuring his own characters.
- An anti-technology website.
Situational Irony cont.

- Rapper Ice-T, once famous for his “Cop Killer” album, now plays a cop on *Law & Order: SVU*.
- A fat personal trainer
Dramatic Irony

- Occurs when the reader or audience is aware of a contradiction that a character(s) does not know.

- Ex: *Romeo and Juliet*