



14. Irony

Lesson Plans



Unit Objectives

- ◆ To introduce the literary concept of *irony* and teach students to recognize it in literature
- ◆ To demonstrate how authors use irony in their work and understand the effect of that irony
- ◆ To differentiate between *verbal, dramatic, and situational irony*
- ◆ To continue practicing annotation and analytical thinking and writing
- ◆ To reinforce the function and effect of *setting* and *imagery*

Unit Plan

Duration: One to Two Weeks

1. Introduce the general concept of *irony* along with *verbal, dramatic, and situational irony* (Student Pages). If students have read other stories or novels that contain irony, ask them to share. Try to get them to think about the effect of the irony and what it contributes to the story's theme. Alternatively, as you explain the effects of irony (Student Pages), ask students if they can think of a story that uses irony to produce shock, or humor, or any of the other effects. Students may suggest stories from this book as many of them contain ironic situations. Students may also suggest movies. (Core)
2. Assign Exercise #19 Detecting Irony. You might discuss the irony of "The Gift of the Magi" together (or if possible, with partners or in groups), and then allow students to complete the exercise as homework. (Core)
3. Talk about irony in the Bible and its effect. (See discussion in this section.) What is its purpose? What does it teach? How does it make the reader feel? (Supplemental)
4. Assign Exercise #20 Irony in Poetry as homework and formative assessment. (Core)
5. Collect students' homework, and then discuss the irony in "Ozymandias," allowing students to share their ideas. Make sure they have an adequate understanding of the purpose and effects of irony in this poem. Insist they take notes during the discussion. Additionally, discuss the poem's imagery. To what senses does the poem appeal? What is the poem's theme, and how does its setting affect the reader's understanding?