

THREE TYPES OF IRONY

Adapted from materials by Janice Bech of Lake Travis High School, Austin, TX



1. Verbal Irony

- the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning.
- In other words, you *say one thing* but actually *mean the opposite*.

Verbal Irony

- For example, in *Julius Caesar*, Mark Antony repeatedly says "and Brutus is an honorable man" in the famous "Friends, Romans, countrymen" speech...



...but really, I think Brutus is pond scum because he stabbed Caesar!

Verbal Irony

- In *Romeo & Juliet*, Juliet tells her mother, "I will not marry yet; and, when I do, I swear it shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate, rather than Paris".



***The Crucible* – Verbal Irony**

Parris: There is a party in this church. I am not blind; there is a faction and a party.

Proctor: Against you?

Putnam: Against him and all authority!

Proctor: Why, then I must find it and join it.

(Proctor is being ironic at first, although he protests his sincerity when challenged.)

Verbal Irony is NOT the same thing as a lie.

With verbal irony, the speaker intends others to know that what he or she means is different or opposite from what is said.



I absolutely love my haircut and feel sensational!

Verbal Irony often involves a **SARCASTIC** tone

Honey, your room is absolutely beautiful. I've never been prouder of you than right now!



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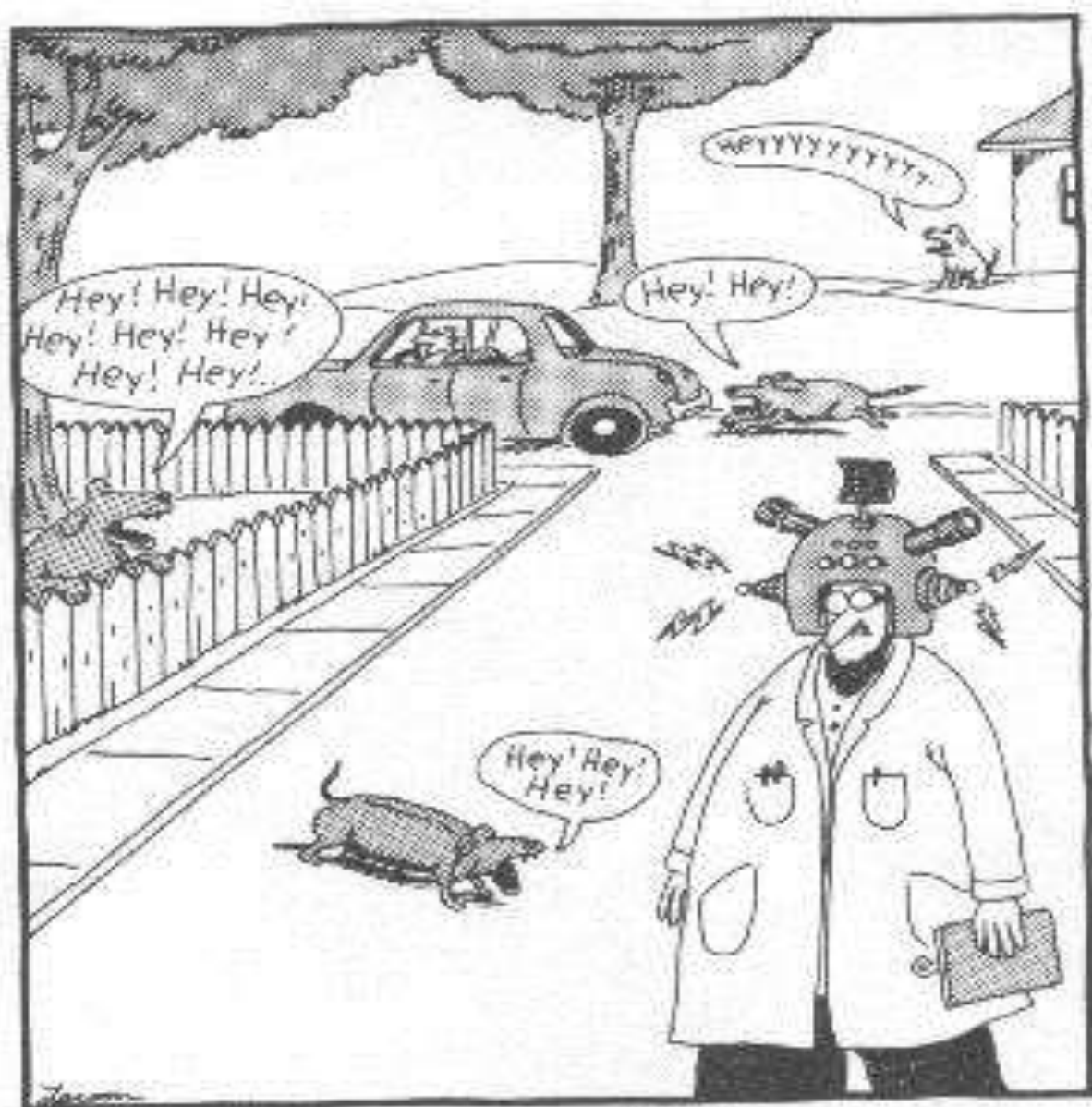
2. Situational Irony

- There is an incongruity--a big difference (sometimes 180 degrees)--between what is ***logically expected*** to happen and what ***actually happens***.

Situational Irony

Examples

- An anti-technology website
- A woman in need of medical help is run over by an ambulance.
- Romeo and Juliet should hate each other because of the feud, but they fall in love.
- At the end of *Lord of the Flies*, the fire that Jack intends to use to kill Ralph attracts their rescuers.



Donning his new canine decoder, Professor Schwartzman becomes the first human being on Earth to hear what barking dogs are actually saying.


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THE BIG BOOK

JON WINKUR

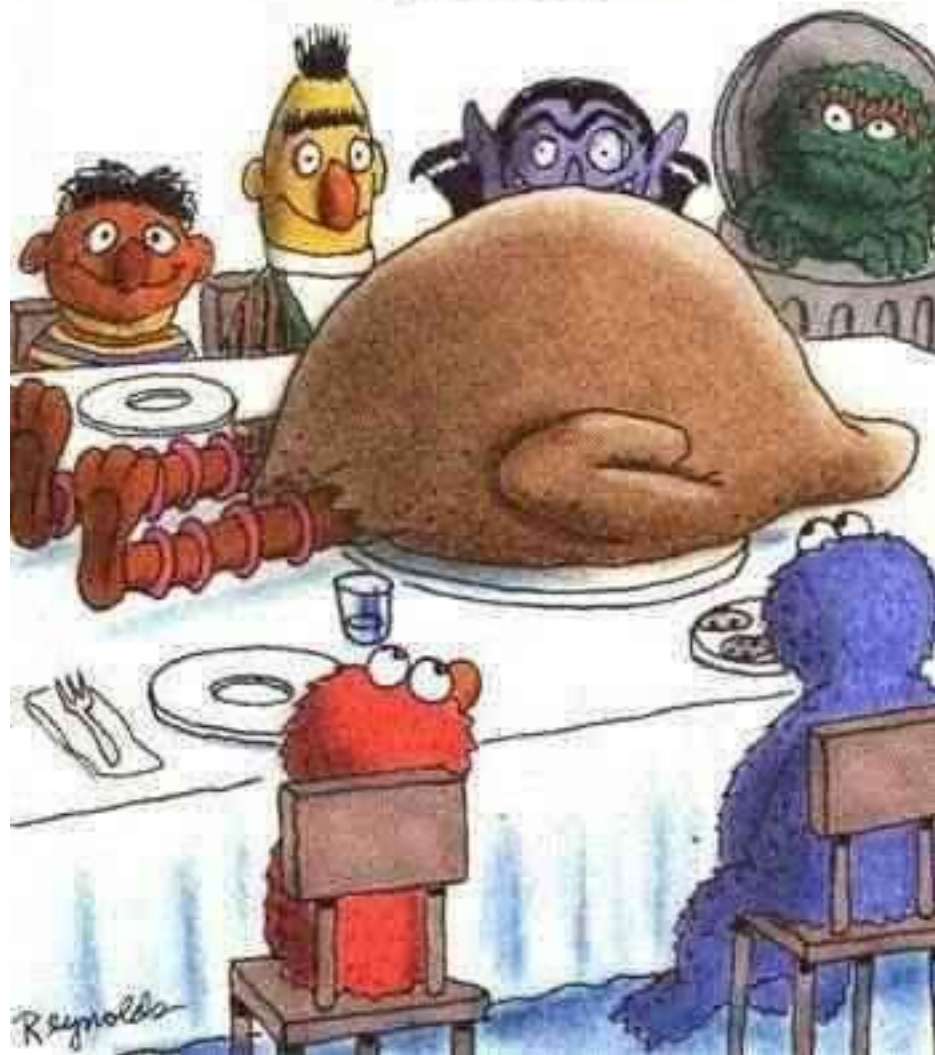
OF IRONY

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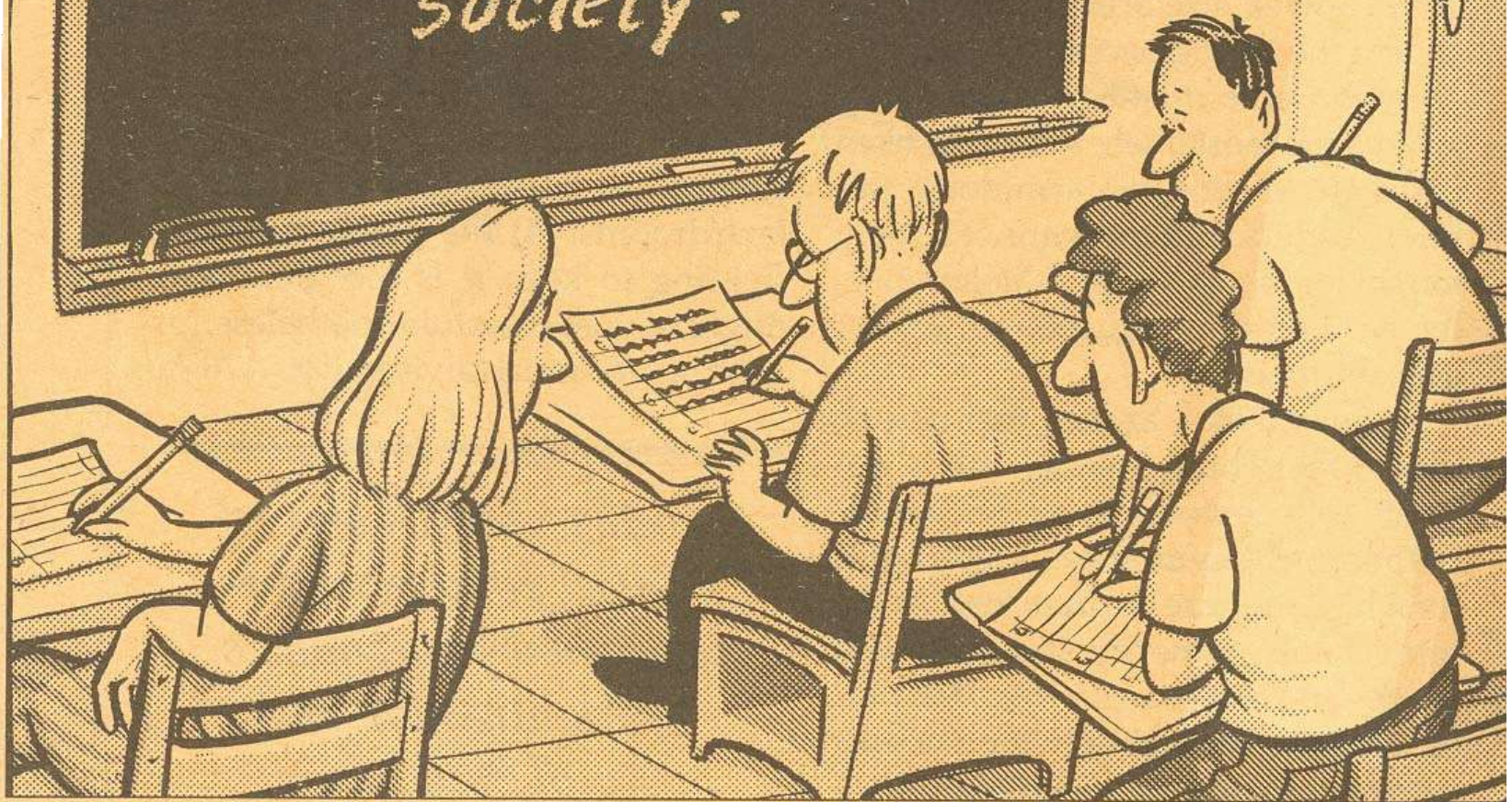


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EXCELLENCE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



How important are ethics in today's society?



***IRONIC* by Alanis Morissette**

A traffic jam when you're already late
A no-smoking sign on your cigarette break
It's like ten thousand spoons when all you
need is a knife
It's meeting the man of my dreams
And then meeting his beautiful wife
And isn't it **ironic**... don't you think
A little too **ironic**... and yeah I really do
think...

**Is there situational irony in this
song?**

NO!

- Situational Irony \neq Bad Luck
- What *actually happens* must be the **opposite of or differ greatly** **from** what was **expected** to happen.

The Crucible - Situational Irony

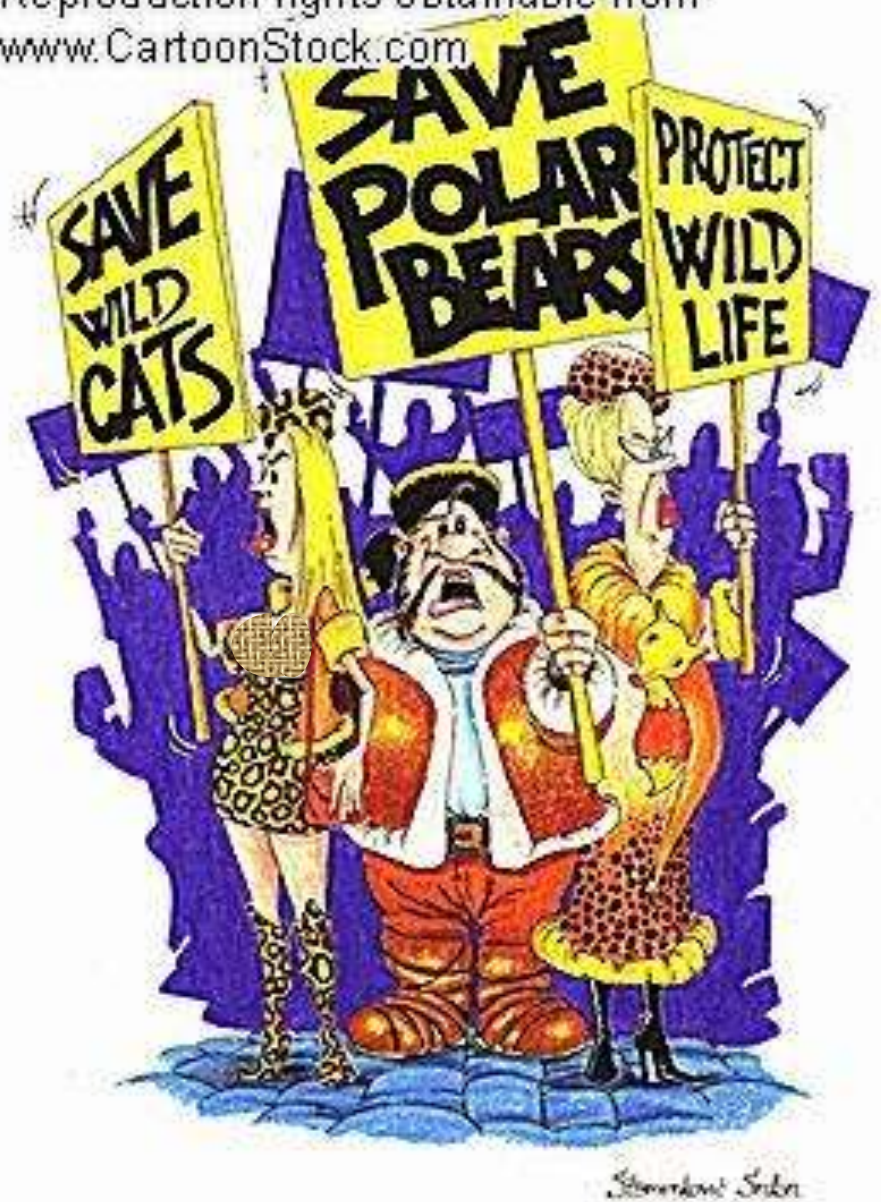
When Hale quizzes John in Act II about the Ten Commandments.

- Considering what's been going on in his life, the last commandment you'd **logically expect** John Proctor to forget is.....
- the one about adultery!



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HYPOCRISY is
a type of
**Situational
Irony**



What is hypocrisy?

- The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not really hold or practice
- Saying you believe one thing but then doing something that contradicts that belief

What is hypocrisy?

- The act of condemning another person when the critic is guilty of the act for which he/she demands that the accused be condemned
- This is also sometimes described using the idiom--*the pot calling the kettle black*



Hypocrisy Example



"Of course this unknown flu that you and everyone else has caught is harmless, Mr Bell."

DERING
ANALYSIS DEMOCRAT-
GAZETTE
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NO
Government
HEALTH
CARE

NICE
SCOOTER CHAIR!

THANKS!
MEDICARE GOT IT
FOR ME!

NO
Government
HEALTH
CARE

NO
Government
HEALTH
CARE

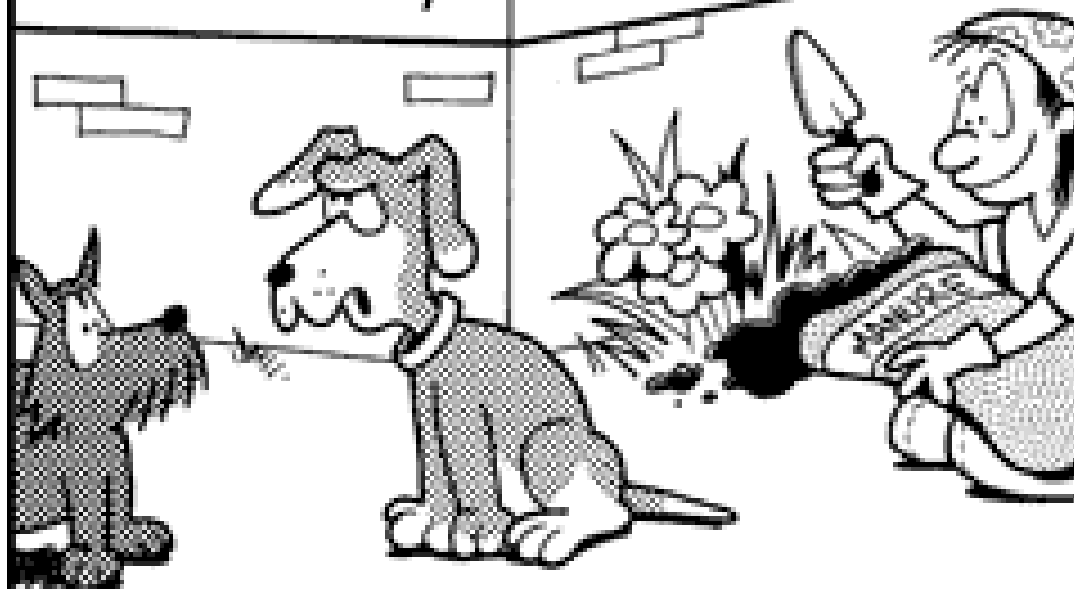
NO

NO
Government
HEALTH
CARE

NO
Government
HEALTH
CARE



I DON'T GET IT... SHE FLIPS
OUT IF I DIG AND POOP IN
THE GARDEN...



3. Dramatic Irony



3. Dramatic Irony

- A situation where a character whose knowledge is limited says, does, or encounters something of greater significance than he or she knows
- In other words, when the ***audience knows a truth*** that one or more of the characters do not yet know or understand

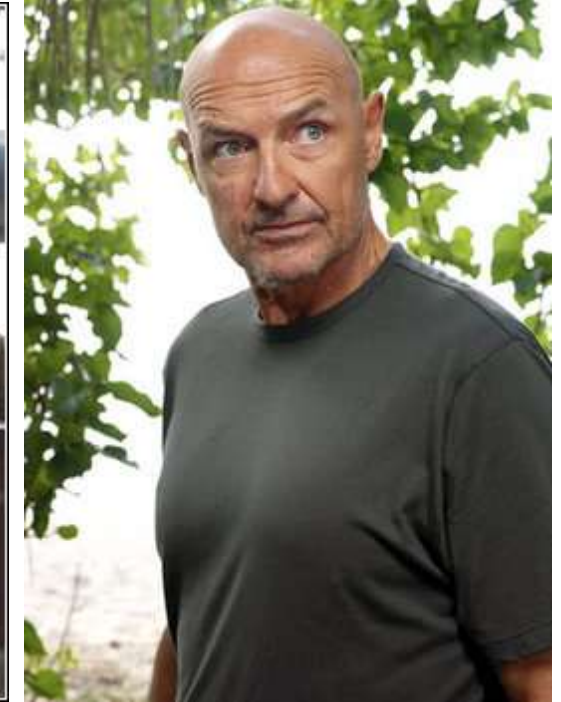
Dramatic Irony - *Romeo and Juliet*

- At the end of this play, what do **we, the audience**, know that Romeo doesn't know?



Dramatic Irony - *Lost*

- There was always a lot of dramatic irony on the TV show *Lost*. Because of flashbacks, we as an **audience** often knew truths other characters had not yet learned.



Dramatic Irony - *Titanic*

- Why is there dramatic irony in this story from the first frame of the movie?



Nearly every horror movie needs Dramatic Irony to work!

- We know what's coming...but the guy in the tie doesn't. Dramatic Irony creates suspense!



The Crucible – End of Act I

- By the end of Act I, when Tituba, Abigail, and other girls are accusing women in the village of witchcraft, why is there **DRAMATIC IRONY?**
- *(Remember to think about us—the audience)*



Irony Quiz for AFTER ACT III

Which of the Three Types of Irony does this represent?

When John Proctor brings Mary Warren before Danforth and she claims the girls' crying out was only "pretense"

Rev. Parris: Excellency, you surely cannot think to let so vile a lie be spread in open court!

- a. verbal irony*
- b. situational irony*
- c. dramatic irony*

Which of the Three Types of Irony does this represent?

When Elizabeth is brought in to testify and is asked if her husband committed the crime of lechery....

Elizabeth: No, sir.

(Hint: It may be more than one)

- a. verbal irony*
- b. situational irony*
- c. dramatic irony*

Which of the Three Types of Irony does this represent?

Considering that Danforth is the Deputy Governor and a judge committed to fairness, in what way are his actions and logic often ironic? What kind of irony is at play?

- a. verbal irony*
- b. situational irony*
- c. dramatic irony*