

Dramatic Irony

Irony: In Literature, it is a technique by which the author surprises the reader with an unexpected outcome. All events and actions seem to lead one way, and end up the opposite.

An example: "Great weather we're having!" But in reality, it is pouring down rain.

Coincidence: Accidental events that seem to have been pre-planned.

A coincidence is more often mistaken to be irony. If the situation can be coincidental, it is probably NOT ironic. The end of "The Gift of the Magi" is ironic because the couple, while they intended to give each other nice gifts, were unable to receive each other's gifts.

Read each situation and type "Coincidence" or "Irony" in the space provided.

1. Two friends meet up in a foreign country without planning it. _____
2. A robber breaks into a house with a gun. A shot goes off, but instead of the bullet hitting the victim, the robber is shot by someone else. _____
3. You see your vegetarian aunt at a butcher shop. _____
4. You see your English teacher at the grocery store before you go home for the day. _____

Critical Thinking:

Is the ending of Edgar Allan Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart," the story you read last unit, ironic? Explain:
