

Situational Irony vs. Dramatic Irony

Below are two scenarios that have ironic twists. One features situational irony; the other displays dramatic irony. Read each passage carefully. Write a paragraph for each passage, identifying the type of irony used and why it would be called that type of irony.

1 William wanted to try for the basketball team. His parents would not allow him to until he had a B average in all of his classes. Despite his best efforts, William could not get higher than a C in biology.

Tryouts were scheduled for Friday, and the quarter grades had not been posted yet. On Wednesday William talked to his biology teacher, Mrs. Simpson, and pleaded with her to give him a B. She promised she would think about it and let him know.

On Thursday morning Mrs. Simpson emailed William's mother and explained she could not give William a B; he must earn it. William's mother read the email and called William's father.

That afternoon Mrs. Simpson tells William he'll be getting a C. John decided that he would tell his parents he's getting a B and go to the tryouts. He'll know if he has made the team by the time the official grades come out. If he's made the team, perhaps he can convince his parents to let him continue on the basketball team.

At dinner Thursday night William tells his parents he's made a B in biology. He's quite surprised when his announcement is met by stunned silence.

2 Louisa had just had her hair done for the prom. As she arrives home, it begins to rain. She covers her head with her raincoat. She can't see anything, but she knows her way around her own home! As she enters the backyard to go into the back door, she trips over the lawn furniture and falls into the swimming pool.

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Actual student's paragraphs will vary, but should include a reference to:

Dramatic irony: William had no idea that his parents had been told by his teacher

that he was making a C. They knew he was lying when he said he had made a B.

The reader is told that the parents were notified.

2 Louisa had just had her hair done for the prom. As she arrives home, it begins to rain. She covers her head with her raincoat. She can't see anything, but she knows her way around her own home! As she enters the backyard to go into the back door, she trips over the lawn furniture and falls into the swimming pool.

Situational irony: In order to save her hairstyle, she blinded herself to the obstacles

in her way. She ended up destroying her hairstyle.