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As Clear as Mud **IRONY STUDY SHEETS**

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IRONY STUDY SHEET 1

Content: _____

Historical Context
Definition
Simple Definition
Samples
Situational Irony
Verbal Irony
Political Cartoons

Function of Irony

Includes: _____

information sheets
questions
activities
useful web links

This is a support and planning document. It contains concepts, ideas and activities that can become the core content of a unit of work.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

KEY WORD ASSOCIATIONS

dissimulation
feigned
ignorance

ANCIENT GREECE TIMELINE

classical (original)
romantic (1797)
tragic (1833)

OTHER TERMS & TYPES

verbal	dialectic	practical
dramatic	cosmic	poetic
antithetical		

DEFINITION

LITERARY DEVICE WHERE THE EXPRESSION OF MEANING USES LANGUAGE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPPOSITE MEANING

AUTHOR IS SEEKING A HUMOROUS OR EMPHATIC EFFECT

as relaxed as a coiled
rattle snake



UNDERSTANDING THE DEFINITION

SETTING & EFFECT

*definite time and place - where
'normal' can be recognized*

statement appears to deliberately be
contrary - the OPPOSITE of that expected

causing an OBVIOUS effect - wry, amusing

SIMPLE DEFINITION

Irony is ... the difference between
'what is said'
AND
'what is meant'

he's as soft as concrete

*as relaxed as a coiled
rattle snake*

*simple objects stand for
larger concepts / ideals*

*exaggeration - overdo physical
or career characteristics*

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IRONY ACTIVITY SHEET

NOVELS: read *All Quiet on the Western Front*, it ends with a surprising - startling - ironic conclusion.

Decide if you agree with this statement.
Explain why you agree, using irony as a main focus.

SITUATIONAL IRONY provides a comment on, for example, the whole story. Review and further explain your decision using situational irony.

Retitle the Book, and write a new ending - maintaining the irony.

Weave your new title into a final paragraph.

RESEARCH: other books and their use of irony.

Vary the book settings: war, peace, family, school, medical profession ...

Vary the ethnic origin of the author.

Vary the places of residence of the authors.

DRAW SOME CONCLUSIONS- worthy of further investigation - about authors who use irony.