

“The Story of an Hour”– Kate Chopin

Types of Irony

VERBAL

the use of words to mean something different from what the person actually says

Ex: “Thanks for the ticket officer! You just made my day!”

DRAMATIC

when the audience is aware of something that the characters in the story are not aware of

Ex: A detective is unaware that his partner is the killer. The events and clues leading up to this discovery have made the audience aware.

SITUATIONAL

involves a discrepancy between what is expected to happen and what actually does happen

Ex: When someone buys a gun to protect himself, and then someone uses that gun to harm the owner.

Textual Response Questions

1. What does Mrs. Mallard’s reaction to the news about her husband’s death tell you about her feelings toward him?
2. What does Mrs. Mallard realize as she is alone in her room?
3. What words does the narrator use to describe Mrs. Mallard’s appearance and behavior as she leaves her room? (Cite textual evidence.)
4. How is what happens to Mrs. Mallard at the end of the story ironic?
5. What type of irony is this?