

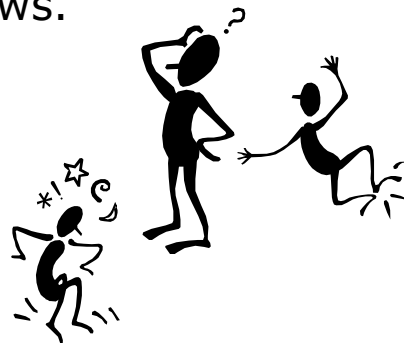
Literary Devices

Writers use various strategies to create suspense or to provide background information to round out the characterization or to increase the complications in the rising action. Some of these strategies include irony (dramatic, situational, or verbal), foreshadowing, and flashback.

IRONY: the contrast between reality and what seems to be real

dramatic irony: when the readers know something that the characters in the story do not know. The suspense arises when the reader wonders

- *who* will reveal the information.
- *when* the revelation will occur.
- *how* the character will respond when s/he learns what the reader knows.

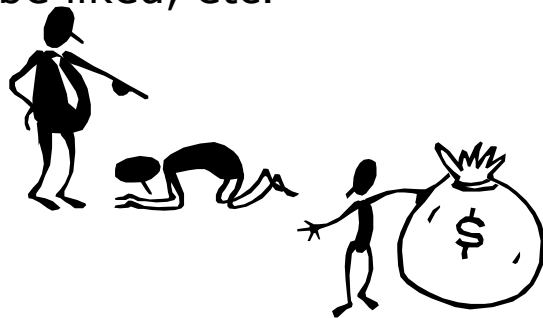


FLASHBACK: Writers may use flashback in the rising action. A flashback is information the writer inserts that presents a situation that occurs prior to the incidents in the current story and usually serves to further develop a character.

The flashback may

- reveal reasons the character is reluctant to press ahead in solving the problems .
- illuminate skills or handicaps the character may possess that may enhance or inhibit his or her ability to solve the problem.
- provide insight into motivation of the protagonist or antagonist.

MOTIVATION: that force that causes a character to act in certain ways, to attack the problem, to persevere in the face of conflict: jealousy, love, hate, fear, greed, desire to be liked, etc.



FORESHADOWING provides hints about future events.

