



COMPARING TEXTS

The Gift of
the Magi

The
Necklace



UNIT 1 Defining Moments Fiction Connection



Material **possessions** and **happiness** are two different things that we have always associated and made codependent. You'll be comparing and contrasting two tales exploring this association.

A detailed illustration of a narrow, snow-covered alleyway in a city. The buildings are multi-story and have a weathered, historical appearance. Laundry, including dark cloths and white items, is hanging on lines strung across the alley. The scene is set in winter, with snow on the rooftops and falling from the sky. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

The Gift of the Magi

Speak Your Mind

What kind of sacrifices would you be willing to make for a person you care about?



"The Gift of the Magi" is a short story written by O. Henry , allegedly at Pete's Tavern on Irving Place in New York City.

James Young and his wife Della are a young couple who are very much in love with each other, but can barely afford their apartment due to their very bad economic situation. For Christmas, Della decides to buy Jim an expensive gift. To raise the funds, she has planned to give away something precious to her. Meanwhile, Jim decides to also part with something valuable to buy Della a Christmas present. How will things turn out for this young couple? Expect a wonderfully ironic ending.



Ironic Slideshow – 3 Types of Irony

Definition – a contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs

Situational – the reader/audience are surprised by something that should have not happened

IRONY

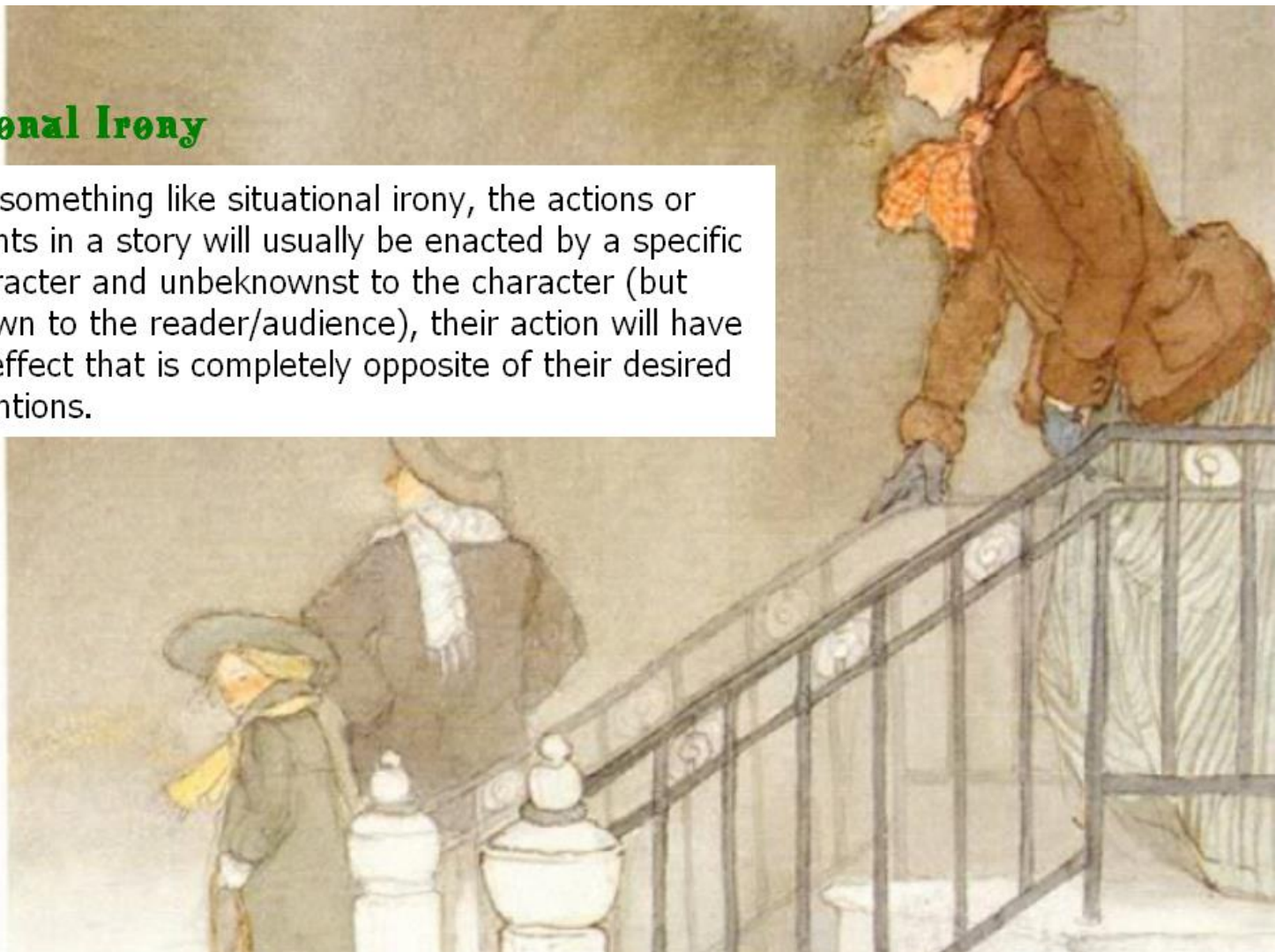
Dramatic – the reader/audience are aware of what is going to happen while the characters don't

Verbal – what is said is the opposite of what is meant



Situational Irony

For something like situational irony, the actions or events in a story will usually be enacted by a specific character and unbeknownst to the character (but known to the reader/audience), their action will have an effect that is completely opposite of their desired intentions.



Theme

A theme is a central idea or perception about life that is conveyed through a literary work. The theme of a fable is its moral. The theme of a parable is its teaching. The theme of a piece of fiction is its view about life and how people behave.

In fiction, the theme is not always intended to teach or preach. In fact, it is almost never presented directly at all.

A theme is not the same as the subject (or topic) of a work. A topic can be stated in one or two words: love, freedom, violence, inequality, materialism, death. The theme, on the other hand, expresses something about the topic. The theme is what the author desires to express about the topic. It should always be expressed as a complete sentence.





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Now enjoy an animated
adaptation of The Gift of
the Magi.

[OR CLICK HERE](#)



The Necklace

Speak Your Mind



How might envy or greed cause a person to make a wrong choice?

This story ironically depicts the fashionable life of Paris and the behavior of the privileged class. The author's unemotional narration, meticulous detail, and accurate historical background are three of the techniques that mark his writing. As a Naturalist author, he sought to portray life as accurately and truthfully as possible. For more on **naturalism**, see page 88.



Literary Concepts

Situational Irony

Occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen.

3rd Person
Limited POV

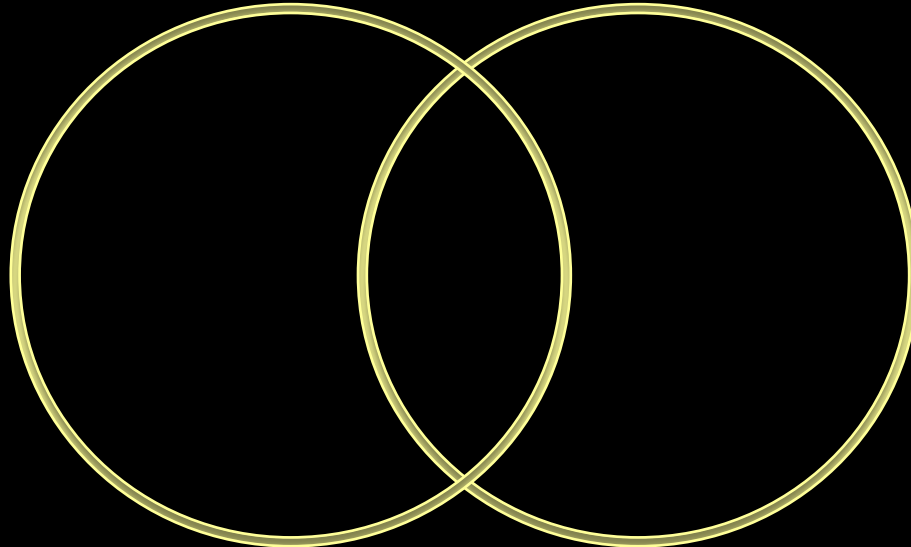
A point of view in which the narrator knows only the thoughts and feelings of a single character, while other characters are presented externally.

Reading Strategy

Compare &
Contrast

When you read both stories use the Venn diagram below to show differences and similarities between them.

The Gift of the Magi



The Necklace

Assessment

After reading pages 82 - 94 in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - Theme and Irony - What do the themes of each story have in common? How are they different? What details in the stories help to express the themes? What is the ironic twist in each story? How does the use of irony affect the development of the themes?
 - A paradox is a statement or situation that contradicts itself. Explain how the irony in each story presents a paradox for the characters.



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