

# Irony and Ambiguity

# Irony

- Irony is the word that **describes the difference between what we expect or what seems suitable and what actually happens.**
- Irony is effective because it mirrors real-life experience
- life rarely fulfills our expectations and often astounds us

# Irony

- Verbal irony is used **when someone says one thing but means the opposite.**
- Situational irony describes **an event that is not just surprising but actually contrary to what we expected.**
- Dramatic irony occurs when **we know what is in store for a character, but the character does not know.**

# Ambiguity

- Just as in actual experience, the outcome of our expectations can also be ambiguous (shades of gray rather than black and white).
- Irony is the reverse of what we expected
- Ambiguity **offers us several conflicting consequences or meanings — and leaves us to figure them out.**

# Ambiguity

- An ambiguous ending offers us a choice of outcomes.
- It's possible that the whole story — its very theme — is ironic or ambiguous.
- At the end, the *why* of the story is puzzling, rather than just the *how* of the plot.
- Life can be complicated, unpredictable, and mysterious; stories that reflect this often stick with us longer than those that don't.