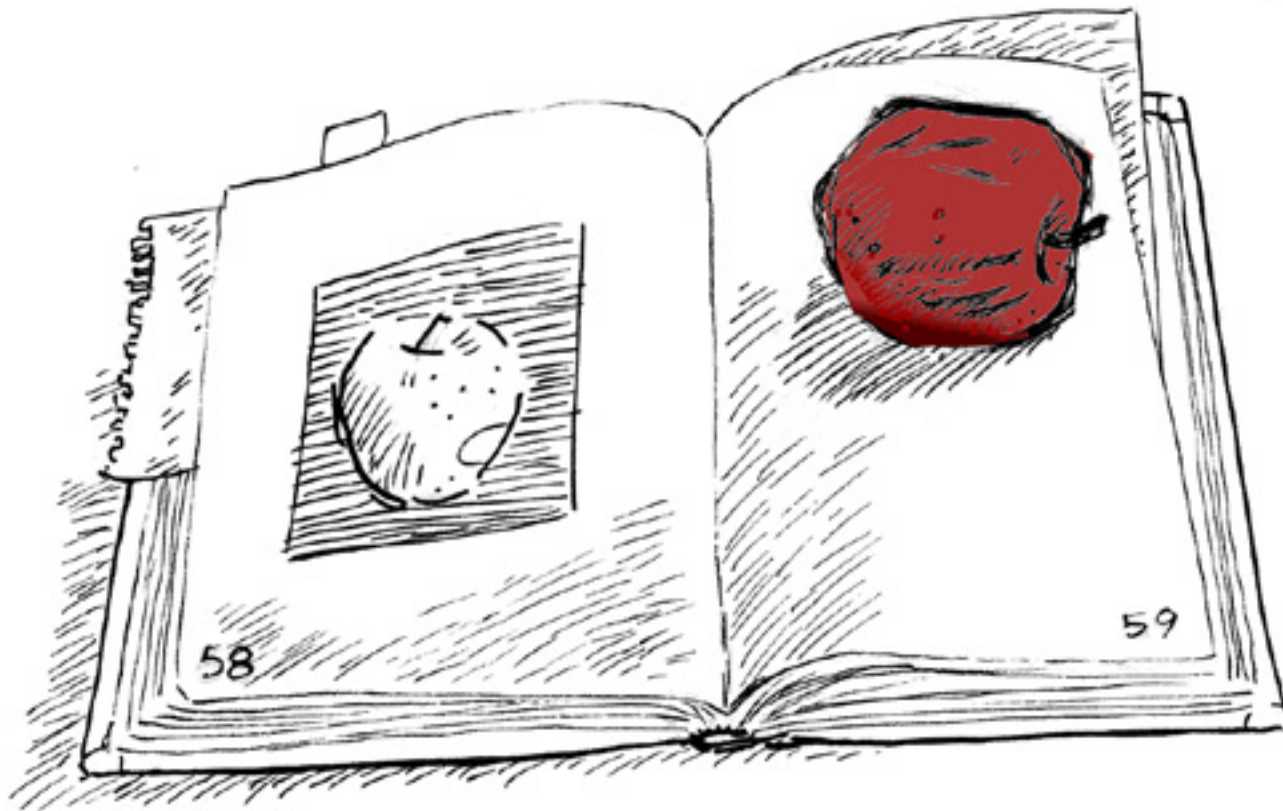


Types of Irony



Types of Irony

Irony involves contrast or discrepancies between elements or a character's actions and spoken intentions.

- **verbal irony:** when a character says one thing but means another.
- **irony of circumstance:** writers create discrepancies between what seems to be true in the story and what actually happens in the story.
- **dramatic irony:** discrepancy between what the character suspects to be true and what the readers know to be true. { *Poe uses this technique frequently.*
- **ironic vision:** overall tone of literary work suggests that the author's opinion are contradictory to actions of characters. Jane Austen uses this technique frequently in her works, specifically *Pride and Prejudice* or *Emma*.

“Cask of Amontillado”

{another Poe classic

The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitively settled — but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish, but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

Despite acting as agent of revenge, he will not appear threatening to Fortunato.

impunity: exemption from punishment

redressed: corrected

unredressed: not corrected

redresser: corrector of fault

When vengeance becomes the sole reason for a retribution of a crime, it cannot be “corrected.” Nothing is achieved in an act of revenge. However, it is equally wrong if a transgressor (Fortunato) does not understand how he wronged the victim (Montresor, who is seeking revenge).

This twisted logic allows Montresor to murder Fortunato; it also adds a further layer of irony to the story.