

Irony:

To subvert thought to create layers of meaning.

Dramatic Irony:

When the audience/ reader knows something that a character in the story does not know.

Example: In *Richard III*, the audience knows that Richard is going to have his brother Clarence killed while Clarence thinks Richard is on his side and is trying to help free him from prison:

“Well, your imprisonment shall not be long; I will deliver you...”
(Shakespeare I.i.114)

Situational Irony:

When the outcome of a situation is not expected. This is the type of irony that is normally used when you hear the term, “That was ironic!”

Example: When Santiago, in *The Alchemist*, traveled to the pyramids to discover his treasure was right where his journey started.

Verbal Irony:

A play on words such as a pun or sarcasm.

Example: “..Made glorious summer by this **son** of York” (Shakespeare I.i.2).