

Definitions

The Importance of Being Earnest

Satire - The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other modern issues.

Notes/Examples:

Exaggeration - To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen. Caricature is the exaggeration of a physical feature or trait. Cartoons, especially political cartoons, provide extensive examples of caricature. Burlesque is the ridiculous exaggeration of language. For instance, when a character that should use formal, intelligent language speaks like a fool or a character that is portrayed as uneducated uses highly sophisticated, intelligent language.

Notes/Examples:

Incongruity - To present things that are out of place or are absurd in relation to its surroundings. Particular techniques include oxymoron, metaphor, and irony.

Notes/Examples:

Parody - To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing in order to ridicule the original. For parody to be successful, the reader must know the original text that is being ridiculed.

Notes/Examples:

Reversal - To present the opposite of the normal order. Reversal can focus on the order of events, such as serving dessert before the main dish or having breakfast for dinner. Additionally, reversal can focus on hierarchical order—for instance, when a young child makes all the decisions for a family or when an administrative assistant dictates what the company president decides and does.

Notes/Examples:

Pun - a form of word play that suggests two or more meanings, by exploiting multiple meanings of words, or of similar-sounding words, for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect.

Notes/Examples:

Epigram – a witty saying or remark expressing an idea in a clever and amusing way.

Notes/Examples:

Character Foil – a character that shows qualities, which are in contrast with the qualities of a main character, in order to highlight the traits of the main character

Notes/Examples:

Verbal Irony – a person says the opposite of what they really mean, or they mean something different than the literal meaning

Notes/Examples:

Dramatic Irony – When the audience knows important information regarding the plot or characters, which the characters themselves are not aware of.

Notes/Examples: