Investigating Irony

“The Cask of Amontillado” Activity

Directions: As we read complete the graphic organizer below with examples from the story. I have completed the first one in each section for you.

**Verbal Irony in “The Cask of Amontillado”**

1. Verbal irony occurs when a speaker or narrator says one thing while meaning the opposite. For example, when Fortunato proposes a toast to the dead buried in the crypts around them, Montresor adds: “And I to your long life.” Montresor is using verbal irony here, as he intends to end Fortunato’s life very soon.

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| What is stated… | What it means… |
| 1. “And I to your long life.” | 1. Ha, ha. You’re going to be dead soon. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |

**Situational Irony in “The Cask of Amontillado”**

1. Situational irony occurs when an event contradicts the expectations of the characters or the reader. For example, Fortunato expects to enjoy the rare Amontillado; however, he is killed.

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| What is expected… | What happens… |
| 1. Fortunato expects proof that Montresor is a Mason. | 1. Montresor takes out his trowel as proof that he is a mason, although he knows it is not proof that he bellows to the Brotherhood of the Masons. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |

**Dramatic in “The Cask of Amontillado”**

1. Dramatic irony occurs when the reader or audience knows more about circumstances or future events in the story than the character within it. For example, from the beginning of “The Cask of Amontillado,” the reader knows that Montresor will kill Fortunato, Fortunato does not know this.

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| What the reader knows… | What the character knows… |
| 1. Montresor vows to kill Fortunato. | 1. Fortunato thinks he will be going on a wine tasting. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |