



# The Ransom of Red Chief

By O. Henry

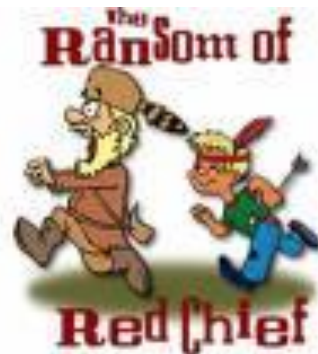


Concept: Irony

# Essential Question

Why do authors use irony?

Authors use irony to surprise readers and keep them interested in the story.





# Predicting

Definition: to guess about future events

- Look at the title
- Pay attention to details and clues from the narrator
- Pay attention to the characters' dialogue and actions

Look at the story's title and make a prediction about the subject of the story.

What is your prediction about the story's tone?



# Anticipation Guide

Do you agree or disagree?

1. Most people believe that you have to work hard to make a lot of money.
2. Most people have tried or will try a “get rich quick” scheme at one point in their lives.
3. Sometimes criminals kidnap individuals as a way to quickly earn money through a ransom.
4. A kidnapper’s captive is always afraid and behaves in a submissive way during his captivity.



# “Expectation”

- Does everything always work out the way that you expect it?
- Are you ever surprised?

If so.... the situation could be ironic.



# Irony

Definition: the contrast between what is expected and what actually exists or happens; a surprise ending

For example: At half time of the football game, your team is winning 35-3. You expect them to win the game. BUT... the other team comes back after half time and wins 35-38. That is ironic because you were positive that your team would win.



# Three Types of Irony

- Situational Irony
- Verbal Irony
- Dramatic Irony





# Situational Irony

The contrast between what a character or the reader expects and what actually happens

Think of an example from a book you've read.





# Verbal Irony

Also called sarcasm

The contrast between what someone says and what he or she means

Think of an example from a recent conversation.



# Dramatic Irony

The contrast between what a character knows  
and what the reader or audience knows

Think of an example from a movie you've  
seen.



# Words to Know

Diatribes

Ransom

Pervade

Collaborative

Comply

Surreptitiously

Palatable

Proposition

Commend

Impudent

Do you think you know the definitions to any of these??



# The Real Definitions

Diatribes: condemnation; bitter, abusive criticism

Ransom: a price or payment demanded in return for the release of property or a person

Pervade: to be spread or to be present throughout

Collaborative: to work together on a project

Comply: to act according to a command, request, or order

Surreptitiously: in a sneaky way; secretly

Palatable: acceptable to the taste; able to be eaten

Proposition: a suggested plan

Commend: to speak highly of; to praise

Impudent: offensively bold and disrespectful



# Pre-Reading: Prediction Chart

This story is about a little boy who is kidnapped and held for a ransom.

Think about the following:

- Will the boy be scared?
- Will the kidnappers mistreat the boy?
- Will the boy's parents immediately pay the ransom?
- Will the boy be reunited with his parents at the end?



# Post-Reading: Examples of Irony

Remember, irony is something that surprised you as you read.

As the reader, you expected one thing, and then the opposite happened.

In your notes, list at least four (4) examples of irony from the story.





# Post-Reading Theme Activity-- Life Lesson

**After reading about these characters, what life lesson can you learn from their experience?**

In your notes, write a one-sentence theme and then follow-up with an explanation based on the specific details from the story.

Remember: A theme is NOT story-specific.