

Name: _____

Prompt: How does the author use dramatic irony?

Claim Statement (Topic sentence that addresses the T.A.G. (title, author, genre) and uses the language of the prompt):

1. In his short story "Lamb to the Slaughter," author Roald Dahl uses dramatic irony to create suspense.

Evidence (Quote that supports claim):

Use a lead in and parenthetical citation.

2. After Mary's husband Patrick reveals devastating news to Mary, she hits him over the head with a frozen leg of lamb and thinks to herself, "All right [...] So I've killed him" (Dahl par. 49).

Interpretation (Explains how evidence relates to claim):

3. The reader knows that Mary has killed her husband, but the characters in the text (i.e. the police officers) do not know, creating dramatic irony.
4. Suspense is created because the penalty for killing her husband could be death, and the reader wonders if Mary will be charged with this crime.

Evidence (Quote that supports claim):

Use a lead in and parenthetical citation.

5. When investigating the crime, Sergeant Noonan believes the murder weapon to be "right under [their] very noses" (par. 133).

Interpretation (Explains how evidence relates to claim):

6. Though Sergeant Noonan suggests that the murder weapon will be easily found on the Maloneys' property, the reader knows that it is, in fact, under their noses, as they are eating it.
7. Suspense is created because the reader knows just how close to the murder weapon the investigators are, though they are unaware.

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Prompt: How does the author use dramatic irony?

Conclusion (The *So What?* Why does the topic matter? Restate the claim and connect to a broader context.):

8. In Dahl's short story "Lamb to the Slaughter," he uses dramatic irony to create suspense, which makes the story more intriguing.