INFERENCE IN *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

"Remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it.

"Your father's right," she said.

"Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy . . . but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

- Miss Maudie and Atticus discuss why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird—because the creature is innocent and does nothing but make music. This is a symbol for the innocence of Boo Radley, and is the thematic heart of the novel—those who have power must protect the vulnerable.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

- The character makes an inference based on the size of the toilet paper roll.

IRONY

A figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning. It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated.

TYPES OF IRONY

Situational

- both the characters and the audience are unaware of the implications of the real situation
  - a man is chuckling at the misfortune of the other even when the same misfortune, in complete unawareness, is befalling him

Dramatic

- the characters are oblivious of the situation, but the audience is not
  - in "*Romeo and Juliet*", we know much before the characters that they are going to die.

SITUATIONAL IRONY RESULTS WHEN THE **OUTCOME** OF A SITUATION IS **OPPOSITE** TO WHAT THE READER MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED, OFTEN CREATING A **SURPRISE** ENDING OR UNUSUAL **TWIST** TO THE PLOT.

SITUATIONAL IRONY IN "THE NECKLACE"

- For keeping up appearances, Mathilda borrows a necklace from a wealthy friend but loses it. In order to return her friend's necklace, she and her husband replace this jewel with another expensive one, however due to this replacement they went through a serious financial crisis.
- Years later, Mathilda meets this friend again, and learns that the jewelry she replaced with real and costly gemstones was merely a costume and artificial jewelry. *(The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant)*

A LITTLE SITUATIONAL IRONY HUMOR

If I really need to explain this one…

MAKING INFERENCES

PART II & PART III

- When the stranger arrives, what clues can the reader use to make an inference that Mrs. White believes he is rich? What inference can the reader make about why Mrs. White believes the stranger has come?

- How was Mrs. White able to make the inference that her son was dead?

- Using clues from the story:
  - ✓ Make an inference as to what Mr. White believes is on the other side of the door.
  - ✓ Next, make an inference as to what Mr. White made for his "third and last wish."
  - ✓ Finally, make an inference as to why Mr. White made this wish.

SITUATIONAL IRONY

PART II

- Explain how the following lines are examples of irony:
  - "Well, I don't see the money," said his son…"and I bet I never shall."
  - "…how could two hundred pounds hurt you, father?"
- How is the end of part two an example of situational irony?