

Act Three

Standards Focus: Irony

One of the most powerful elements of *The Crucible* is Miller's use of irony. There are several examples of irony in Act Three of *The Crucible*.

Irony is an inconsistency between appearance and reality. There are several types of irony:

- **Verbal** irony is when a speaker or writer says one thing but actually means the opposite. For example, when your mom walks into your filthy bedroom and says, "I see you've cleaned your room!" Sarcasm is one type of verbal irony.
- **Situational** irony is when the outcome of a situation is inconsistent with what we expect would logically or normally occur. An example of situational irony would be if a thief's house was broken into at the same time he was robbing someone's house.
- **Dramatic** irony is when the audience or the reader is aware of something that a character does not know. For example, when Romeo believes Juliet is dead, but the audience knows that she has only been given a potion to sleep.

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. What was John's intention in publicly admitting his affair with Abigail? How is this ironic? What type of irony is this? _____

2. What was Elizabeth's intention when lying about John's affair? What is ironic about Elizabeth's lie? What type of irony is this? _____

3. What is ironic about the beliefs of the Puritan community and the events of the play so far? _____
