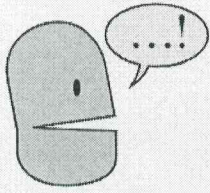
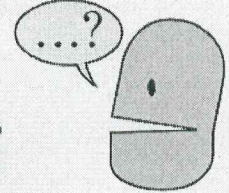


Name: _____



Discuss the Verbal Irony



Verbal irony is when the intended meaning of a statement is the opposite of what the statement appears to mean.

Example: A mother surveys her son's messy room as he watches television. "I'm so glad you decided to clean up your room."

The mother in the example is not glad, nor has the son decided to clean up. Her underlying statement is the opposite of what the words mean on the surface.

Below are several scenarios that include verbal irony. Identify the irony and write a paragraph on why it is irony.

1. Peter was excited about his new phone. He ran into the cafeteria to show his best friend, Mark. As Peter ran across the room, he tripped over Ellen Carson's backpack. He went flying across the lunch table where the swim team was eating. Lunch trays, cups, food, and drink went spilling over the neighboring tables. Peter skidded to a stop in front of Mark, as Mark was doused with juice. "My, that was graceful," said Mark.

2. Janet woke up late for school. Elizabeth would be there to pick her up at any moment. Janet dashed to the bathroom in her pajamas to wash her face and fix her hair. She had soap suds all over her face, as she awkwardly tried pull her hair up in a ponytail. The water in the sink splashed her pajamas. At that moment, there was a knock on the bathroom door.

"It's Elizabeth," said her friend. "May I come in?" Janet answered with a quick yes.

Elizabeth opened the door and stood gazing at Janet. "Are you ready to go?"

3. Five year old Lee lived in a storm-ravaged area of town. He slept next to his brothers on the floor of a partially destroyed house. The family only had enough money for heat on the very coldest of winter days. Most of the family finances went to provide food for the hungry bellies. Even then, there were many nights when Lee and his brothers went to bed without dinner. How they would rebuild their home was a mystery. Now, all intelligent people know that poverty is a character flaw, especially in small children. Nonetheless, it was hard to see such a small child so hungry and cold.
