

Literary Analysis

IRONY

Irony presents a contrast between expectation and reality. In **verbal irony**, what is said is the opposite of what is really meant. Desai uses verbal irony to comment on her characters. She also frequently uses hyperbole, or exaggerated overstatement, in an ironic way. You may not notice the ironic tone on first reading, but once you know the entire story, the contrast will be more obvious.

In **situational irony** there is a contrast between what characters expect and what occurs. Look for clues about characters’ expectations and then read to find out whether or not they are met.

Directions: Complete this chart to find and classify examples of irony in the story. Look for examples of both verbal and situational irony. Finding examples of hyperbole will help you discover verbal ironies. Then explain why each example is ironic.

Example	Verbal Irony or Situational Irony?	Why Is It Ironic?