

Lesson Name : 27

Lesson Title : Just Lather, That's All, Section 1

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

Task Id : 57057773

Course Id : 15021



Read the first section of Hernando Tellez's "[Just Lather, That's All](#)" from the beginning to "...and let him go in peace, alive, clean-shaven."

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes on new vocabulary and definitions that you may need to reference later.



Reading and Literary Skills

Often when reading a story, especially a suspenseful one, it is tempting to try to figure out the ending. If a story does have a surprising ending, it is only surprising because we had a preconceived notion, or an idea already in our minds, about what that ending would be. Either way, there's no denying that our curious natures make it impossible to not try and figure out the end of a story while reading it. Think back to the last story you read. Were you trying to figure out the ending? As you read "Just Lather, That's All," pay close attention to your preconceived notions about the ending. It will be important later.

As you read section one of "Just Lather, That's All," were you thinking about the ending of the story? So far, what are your impressions or ideas about the ending of the story? What lines of the story led you to that conclusion? Do you think the barber will end up killing the executioner sitting in his barber's chair?

Types of Irony

Irony highlights the difference between what was intended and what actually happens. There are three primary types of **irony** used in literature: **verbal**, **dramatic**, and **situational**.

Verbal irony is the contrast between what is said and what is meant. An example of this is sarcasm. If a girl has been badly hurt by a boyfriend who cheated on her she might say, "He was a real winner." She actually means the opposite.

Dramatic irony is the contrast between what the character thinks to be true and the reader knows to be true. For example, in Shakespeare's play *Othello*, the audience knows Othello is being deceived by the villain Iago even though Othello doesn't.

Situational irony occurs when the end result is the opposite of what was intended. In the story “The Gift of the Magi,” the main character sells her hair to buy her husband a chain for his watch. At the end of the story, the reader discovers that the husband sold his watch to buy hair clips for his wife. Neither of them can use the presents they bought because of the sacrifices they made for one another. This story is a classic example of situational irony.

When the narrator of “Just Lather, That's All” says, “...the four days he had been gone on the last foray after our men,” it is revealed to the reader that we know something the executioner does not. We now know that the barber is an enemy to the man in his chair and that he is a member of the revolutionary party. This is an example of **dramatic irony**.

Author Argument

Consider the **argument** Tellez is making in his short story. In other words, think about the message he wants to communicate to the reader about this subject. As you read “Just Lather, That's All,” consider the author's message to the reader about war and the difference between a killer and a non-violent being. So far, do you think the author has a positive or negative opinion about war? What lines gave it away? As you read the rest of “Just Lather, That's All,” look for more lines that contribute to this argument about war and differences between people who kill and people who don't.

Diction

Diction refers to the choice of words that an author uses. Often, the choices in words that an author makes tell us more about his message. As you read “Just Lather, That's All,” consider the exact choices Tellez uses in his piece. For example, consider this line from the story: “But the sight of those mutilated bodies...” Consider the word mutilated. It would have been enough for Tellez to indicate that the bodies belonged to people who were once alive, but who had been killed. Why would he include the word mutilated? By using such a strong, descriptive word, Tellez hopes to show the inhumane way the soldiers were treated, even in death.

Context Clues

Context clues are “helper” words that give hints about the meaning of an unfamiliar word. For example in “Just Lather, That's All,” consider the following sentence: “The man closed his eyes *wearily* and awaited the cool caress of the lather.” Even if you weren't sure of the meaning of the word *wearily*, you can use the clues in the sentence—he closed his eyes, he waited for the caress of the soap-- to infer that *wearily* means doing something in an exhausted way.

Synonyms

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. Always consider the **synonyms** of your vocabulary words in order to help you remember them. It is important to understand **synonyms** in order to retain meaning and then later, when writing, be able to recall these synonyms in order to use the most effective and descriptive word. For example, *harmed*, *injured*, and *mutilated*, are all **synonyms**. However, *mutilated* is a much more powerful word to use than *harmed*.



[Open Video in New Tab](#)



Vocabulary

Understanding the words used in a story can aid your understanding of the story itself. Here are some words from the first section of Hernando Tellez's "Just Lather, That's All":

1. **foray** – noun – a raid or attack
2. **wearily** – adv. – doing something in an exhausted way
3. **caress** – noun – gentle touch or stroke
4. **revolutionary** – noun – a supporter of revolutionary principles or principles which will change policies and/or government
5. **strop** – noun – a device, typically made of leather, used usually to sharpen a straight-razor
6. **stropping** – verb – to sharpen on or with a strop
7. **honing** – verb – perfecting or refining something
8. **whorls** – noun – a pattern of spirals or concentric circles
9. **indelible** – adj. – not able to be forgotten or removed