

## **Reunion by John Cheever – Irony**

Here are some prominent types of Irony in the story. The father's behavior throughout the reunion is rife with irony. On the surface, he appears confident and cheerful, creating an initial impression of a positive encounter. However, as the narrative unfolds, the irony becomes apparent as the father's dismissive attitude, impatience, and ultimately, his abrupt departure reveal the underlying dysfunction in their relationship.

### **1. Situational Irony:**

- The premise of the story is inherently ironic. The son eagerly anticipates the reunion with his father, expecting a joyous and meaningful encounter. However, the actual meeting unfolds in a way that is starkly different from the son's expectations. The situational irony lies in the stark contrast between the anticipated warmth of the reunion and the cold, strained reality of the encounter.

### **2. Verbal Irony:**

- Throughout the narrative, there are instances of verbal irony that add layers of meaning to the dialogue. The father's seemingly benign statements take on a sarcastic or dismissive tone, revealing an underlying tension in their relationship. For example, the father's comment about the son's school performance being "okay" carries an ironic weight, suggesting a lack of genuine interest or approval.

### **3. Dramatic Irony:**

- The reader is privy to the son's inner thoughts and emotions, creating a sense of dramatic irony. While the son remains hopeful and eager for a positive connection with his father, the reader senses the impending disappointment and tension that will characterize their interaction. This dramatic irony contributes to the poignancy of the story.