

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

“The Landlady” —Important Vocabulary Words

Suspense: a state or condition of _____ or excitement, as in _____ or outcome, usually accompanied by a degree of apprehension or anxiety.

Suspense is the suspending of our emotions. We know something is about to happen, and the longer the writer can keep us anticipating what will happen, the greater the suspense. As the writer Oscar Wilde once said, “The suspense is killing me, I hope it lasts”.

Foreshadowing: to _____ in advance.

Foreshadowing helps to build suspense because it alerts the reader to what is about to happen. It also helps the reader savor all of the details of the buildup. This is often seen in suspense and horror movies. The *Jaws* music foreshadows the approach of the shark, just as most villains have their own music to foreshadow their approach.

Irony: A _____, or between what is expected to happen and what actually happens.

Example of Irony

In the short story, “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry, a poor married couple buys each other Christmas presents. The wife, who has beautiful long hair, decides to have her hair cut off and sold. With this money she is able to buy an expensive chain for his valuable pocket watch. When her husband arrives home, his wife is puzzled by the expression on her husband’s face. She learns the reason for his odd look when he presents her with his gift, a pair of beautiful combs for her hair. The wife comforts her husband by saying that her hair will grow back and urges him to open his present. When the husband sees the watch chain, a wide, comical smile crosses his face as he explains to his wife that he sold his watch in order to purchase the combs.