

# Dramatic Irony

**By: Taylor Dilley**

# Definition:

When the audience or reader is aware of critical information of which the characters are unaware.

# Read This Passage...

“If someone knows the killer is a stranger,  
from some other state, let him not stay mute...  
I pray, too,  
that, if he should become an honoured guest  
in my own home and with my knowledge,  
I may suffer all those things I’ve just called down  
upon the killers.”

(Oedipus By Sophocles)

# Answer the Questions In Your Notebook...

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- 1) Identify the dramatic irony in this particular passage.
- 2) What about this passage makes it dramatic irony?
- 3) Would this piece of writing be as ironic, if the audience hadn’t known about the prophecy about Oedipus?
- 4) How would this play change if there were no elements of dramatic irony?

## Now You Try...

Write 3-4 sentences about a made-up character of your choice and what happens to them on their way to work one morning.