

Dramatic Irony

Definition

- When the knowledge of the audience surpasses that of the character
 - The audience knows what is going on while the character is unaware
 - This is the reason that the character's actions or words may seem foolish to the audience

Example

- In *Hamlet* the audience knows that Hamlet is not actually crazy and that he knows the truth about his father's murder while the characters do not.
 - This makes the other characters seem foolish because they don't know that Hamlet isn't crazy
- In *A Doll's House*, the audience knows that Nora forged her father's signature to get a loan, but her husband is left unaware. The audience also knows how her husband views her as a doll, but Nora does not.
 - This is the source of a lot of the confusion that occurs because they do not know about the other's actions, but the audience knows exactly what is going on.

Links

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/reference/examples/dramatic-irony-examples.html>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/170979/dramatic-irony->