

flashback

A scene that interrupts the action to show a previous event.

foreshadow

The use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest future action.

dramatic irony

the reader / audience knows more about the immediate circumstances or future events of a story than a character within it; thus the audience can see a discrepancy between characters' perceptions and the reality they face.

Stage Directions

instructions to the performers, director, and stage crew (about lighting or props) usually appear in italic type and in parentheses; also stage directions help readers identify in which historical period the play is set, recall previous action in the play, and understand background material on the characters. Stage directions help readers visualize the characters' action and the setting of the play.

Euphemism

a more acceptable and usually more pleasant way of saying something that might be inappropriate or uncomfortable. "He went to his final reward" is a common euphemism for "he died." Euphemisms are also often used to obscure the reality of a situation. The military uses "collateral damage" to indicate civilian deaths in a military operation.

situational irony

the situation turns out differently from what one would normally expect

verbal irony

the speaker or narrator says one thing while meaning the opposite.