“After Twenty Years” by O. Henry
“He—y, Come On O—ut!” by Shinichi Hoshi

**Literary Analysis: Irony**

**Irony** involves a contradiction or contrast of some kind. In **situational irony** (or **irony of situation**), something takes place that a character or reader does not expect to happen. For example, a student voted Most Likely to Succeed ends up going to prison.

In **verbal irony**, a writer, speaker, or character says something that deliberately contradicts or blurs what he or she actually means. Think of a man who has been dreading a reunion with his best friend from twenty years before. When they meet, he says, “I've been so looking forward to seeing you.” That is verbal irony.

In **dramatic irony**, the reader or audience knows or understands something that a character or speaker does not. For example, readers know that the apple Snow White is about to bite into is poisoned, but Snow White does not know it. That is dramatic irony.

As you read “After Twenty Years” and “He—y, Come On O—ut!” look for situational irony in particular.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions.

1. What is the general situation, or the plot? Describe it briefly.
   - “After Twenty Years”: ____________________________
   - “He—y, Come On O—ut!”: ____________________________

2. What outcome do you expect?
   - “After Twenty Years”: ____________________________
   - “He—y, Come On O—ut!”: ____________________________

3. What happens? How does the story end?
   - “After Twenty Years”: ____________________________
   - “He—y, Come On O—ut!”: ____________________________

4. What details in the story lead you to expect a certain outcome? Describe one or two details, and state what they lead you to expect.
   - “After Twenty Years”: ____________________________
   - “He—y, Come On O—ut!”: ____________________________

5. What is ironic about the ending of the story?
   - “After Twenty Years”: ____________________________
   - “He—y, Come On O—ut!”: ____________________________
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Vocabulary Builder

Word List
apparent  destiny  intricate  plausible  proposal  simultaneously  spectators

A. DIRECTIONS: Revise each sentence so that the italicized vocabulary word is used logically. Be sure to use the vocabulary word in your new sentence.
1. The plot of the short story was so intricate that we followed it easily.
2. The destiny of a criminal is likely to include time spent as a police officer.
3. The two men arrived simultaneously, one reaching the doorway an hour after the other.
4. Because there were many spectators when the crime was committed, no eyewitnesses could testify at the trial.
5. The apparent smile on the face of the scientist was not visible to anyone.
6. The plausible explanation made sense to no one.
7. Because he offered no solution, everyone accepted the concessionaire’s proposal.

B. DIRECTIONS: Write the letter of the word whose meaning is most similar to that of the Word Bank word.
1. intricate
   A. complicated  B. tiny  C. simple  D. intelligent
2. simultaneously
   A. genuinely  B. apart  C. together  D. separately
3. apparent
   A. obvious  B. hidden  C. deceptive  D. similar