


Unit 2 Lesson 4

Recognizing and Analyzing Foils & Understanding



Understanding Foils and Parodies

- **Foils**
 - **Definition:** A foil is a character who contrasts with another character, usually the protagonist, to highlight particular qualities of the other character.
 - **Purpose:** To emphasize the traits of the main character through contrast.
- **Parody**
 - **Definition:** A humorous imitation of a literary work that aims to illustrate the work's shortcomings. It may imitate another work's plot, characters, or style but usually exaggerates those characteristics.
 - **Purpose:** To entertain and criticize by highlighting the flaws and absurdities of the original work.




Examples of Foils

- **Foils in Literature**
- **Example 1: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (Sherlock Holmes series by Arthur Conan Doyle)**
 - **Contrast:** Holmes' eccentric, brilliant, and often aloof personality is contrasted with Watson's grounded, practical, and empathetic nature.
- **Example 2: Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy (Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling)**
 - **Contrast:** Harry's bravery, humility, and kindness contrast with Draco's arrogance, cowardice, and prejudice.
- **Example 3: Elizabeth Bennet and Charlotte Lucas (Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen)**
 - **Contrast:** Charlotte's pragmatic and traditional approach to marriage highlights Elizabeth's independence and critical thinking.



Examples of Parody

- **Parody in Literature and Media**
- **Example 1: "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes**
 - **Original Work:** Chivalric romances
 - **Parody Elements:** Exaggerates the idealism and impracticality of chivalric knights through the delusional adventures of Don Quixote.
- **Example 2: "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams**
 - **Original Work:** Science fiction
 - **Parody Elements:** Mocks the tropes of science fiction through absurd and humorous scenarios.
- **Example 3: "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" by Seth Grahame-Smith**
 - **Original Work:** "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen
 - **Parody Elements:** Adds zombie fiction elements to the classic romance to create a humorous and absurd narrative.




Analyzing Foils and Parody

- **Recognizing and Analyzing Foils**

1. **Identify Characters:** Look for pairs of characters with contrasting traits.
2. **Examine Interactions:** Analyze how their interactions highlight their differences.
3. **Determine Purpose:** Understand what traits the foil is meant to emphasize in the main character.
 1. **Example:** In "To Kill a Mockingbird," Scout Finch's innocence and curiosity contrast with Mayella Ewell's ignorance and prejudice, highlighting innocence and moral growth themes.

- **Recognizing and Analyzing Parody**

1. **Identify the Original Work:** Determine which work is being parodied.
2. **Spot the Exaggerations:** Look for exaggerated traits or plot points.
3. **Understand the Critique:** Analyze what aspects of the original work are being criticized or mocked.
 1. **Example:** Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" parodies travel narratives and satirizes human nature, politics, and society.



How to Use Foil and Parody in Writing

- **Creating Foils**
- **Develop Contrasting Characters:** Create characters with opposite traits to emphasize key qualities.
 - **Example:** A brave hero and a fearful companion can highlight the theme of courage.
- **Show Through Interaction:** Use their interactions to reveal important character traits and themes.
- **Writing Parody**
- **Choose a Target:** Select a work or genre to parody.
 - **Example:** Parody detective novels by creating an absurdly incompetent detective.
- **Exaggerate Features:** Amplify specific traits or elements for comedic effect.
- **Critique with Humor:** Use humour to point out the shortcomings or absurdities of the original work.