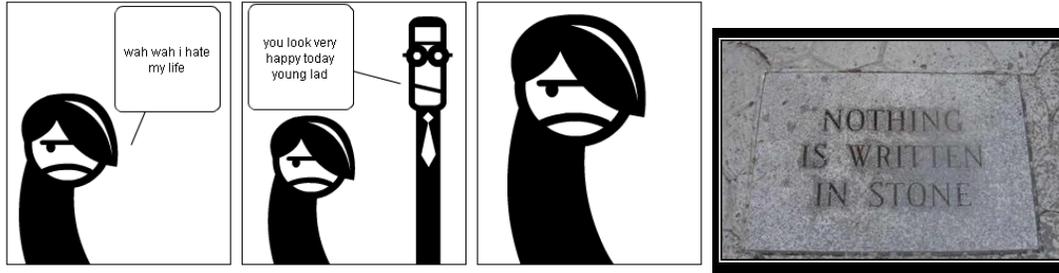


Vocabulary Set 19

Verbal Irony: irony in which a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning.



Summary: a brief statement or account of the main points of something.

Quotation: As Gatsby is driving Nick to lunch, he notices a change in his manner; “We hadn’t reached West Egg Village before Gatsby began leaving his elegant sentences unfinished and slapping himself indecisively on the knee of his caramel-colored suit. ‘Look here, old sport,’ he broke out surprisingly. What’s your opinion of me anyhow?” (69).

Summary: Nick is riding with Gatsby to lunch. He notices that Gatsby is speaking differently, leaving his sentences unfinished. Gatsby asks Nick what he thinks of him. (*Notice that there is no opinion or interpretation in this statement. It adds nothing to our understanding of the passage.*)

Analysis: detailed examination of the elements or structure of something, typically as a basis for discussion or interpretation.

An analysis is breaking a large topic into smaller pieces to better understand the subject. In an analysis you are not telling the reader about the main viewpoints of the author or what the writing is about, you are examining the structure and the details of the writing. You break the story into smaller parts to understand it better.

Analysis of the quote from above: In this scene, we see a break in Gatsby’s affected calm. Nick had noticed previously that he “pick[ed] his words with care” (53); now he leaves sentences unfinished. His agitation is seen also in his physical movements, as he “slap[s] himself indecisively on the knee” (69). Gatsby is making plans to meet Daisy again, and his change in manner is brought on by his nervousness about seeing her. Gatsby’s insecurity about what Daisy might think of him after all these years leads him to ask Nick for his opinion of him, a fact which surprises Nick because it is such a change from Gatsby’s usual aloof confidence. In fact, Gatsby is so rattled as he draws near the critical moment in achieving his dream that he is unable even to be direct with Nick. Instead of just asking him if Nick would plan a meeting, he arranges for “Miss Baker [to] speak to [him] about this matter” (72). This is a crucial moment in Gatsby’s life, and its weight is illustrated in his unusual behavior.

Syntax: the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.

Example using syntax in order to make a joke: “Nice dog man... do you pick up a lot of girls with him?” “Nah, he can only lift a few pounds.”

Example using syntax in a way that makes our meaning literal: Nice dog man... Is it helpful to have a nice dog when you are trying to get a date?

*The words you use and the way you choose to word something can change your meaning.

Diction: 1. The choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing. (Word Choice)

Syntax and diction are closely related. Diction refers to the choice of words in a particular situation while syntax determines how the chosen words are used to form a sentence. Most often than not, adopting a complex diction means a complex syntactic structure of sentences and vice versa. In combination, syntax and diction help writers develop tone, mood and atmosphere in a text along with evoking interest of the readers.