

The Frogs Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

- **Metaphor:** Definition: When one thing is directly compared to another without using like or as. Example: "Weighing verses." Explanation: Dionysus places the poets' lines on a scale to weigh them. This is a metaphor where the "depth and value" of poetry are shown as physical weight. It suggests that literature is not just words, but contains hidden morality and power.
- **Irony:** Definition: When the opposite of what is expected happens. Example: Dionysus goes to the underworld intending to act as a brave hero, but everywhere he behaves like a coward. Explanation: Though Dionysus is the god of drama, he displays cowardice and weakness. The audience expects him to show bravery, but instead, his fear provides laughter. This reflects the satirical nature of Greek Old Comedy.
- **Symbolism:** Definition: When an object, character, or place represents a deeper meaning or idea.
- **Chorus of Frogs:** Symbol of comedy, chaos, and laughter. Their song "Brekekekex koax koax" expresses the strange rhythm of life.
- **Weighing of Verses:** Symbol of the balance between literature and morality. The fact that Aeschylus' lines are heavier means his poetry carries stronger moral weight.
- **Dionysus:** Although the god of drama and comedy, here he symbolizes human weakness, cowardice, and whimsy.
- **Euripides:** Symbol of modernity, logic, and the weaknesses and complexities of daily life.
- **Aeschylus:** Symbol of ancient glory, religious faith, and morality.
- **Empusa (the monster):** Symbol of fear and delusion, reflecting Dionysus' inner cowardice.
- **Pluto:** The king of the underworld, symbol of justice and final decision-making.
- **Chorus of Initiates:** Symbol of the voice that educates society and guides it toward morality.

Moral Lessons from Aristophanes's The Frogs

- Good literature guides society.
- Tradition and morality are stronger than empty cleverness.
- Comedy can teach through laughter.
- A city survives with worthy citizens.

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