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| Type of Irony | Story Detail/What is expected | What actually occurs | How does this contribute to plot/theme? |
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| situational | The black box, which holds the lottery ballots, is old, worn, and faded. The reader would expect the box to be kept in pristine condition. | The box is kept in random places year after year, and its original appearance is even in doubt. | The lottery’s tradition seems to have faded. For such an important town function, the lottery’s central symbol seems to mean very little. |
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