

Humor in Writing

1. absurd details, images, and situations (often combines stereotypes and the absurd); use of reducto ad absurdum (reduced to the absurd) to add comic details or plot twists increasingly until a situation becomes totally ridiculous
2. humorous allusions to literature, famous people, and historical or contemporary events
3. incongruity between subject and tone (when a serious tone is used to describe a comic/absurd subject or when a comic tone is used to describe a serious subject)
4. word play, repetition of words, word meanings, or subjects for comic purposes
5. unexpected reversals or contradictions in expected meanings (when a word, the end of a sentence, or the following sentence unexpectedly reverses the reader's expectation of a cliché, attitude, or meaning)
6. other generic techniques: irony, parody, understatement, and hyperbole