**“The Lottery Ticket” Pre-Reading Notes**

**Satire**

* Satire is a genre of literature, and sometimes graphic and performing arts, in which vices, follies, abuses and shortcomings are held up to ridicule, ideally with the intent of shaming individuals, corporations, government, or society itself, into improvement.

**Irony**

* Irony is a rhetorical device, literary technique or event in which what appears on the surface to be the case, differs radically from what is actually the case.
* There are three main types.
* Alanis Morissette's song “Ironic” is not a source of irony.

**Dramatic Irony**

* Dramatic Irony is when the audience/reader has knowledge that characters in the play/book do not have or understand.
* Examples: In a scary movie, when someone walks into a house when the audience knows the killer is in.

**Verbal Irony**

* Verbal Irony is a figure of speech in which what is said is the opposite of what is meant. This is often closely linked to sarcasm.
* Examples: Clear as dirt, pleasant as a shark, etc.

**Situational Irony**

* Situational Irony is an outcome that turns out to be very different from what was expected. It is the difference between what is expected to happen and what actually does.
* Examples: A fire station burns down. Gunpowder was discovered in an attempt to find the elixir of immortality.

**Theme**

* Theme is a unifying image, idea, or motif that is repeated or developed throughout a work.

**Anton Pavlovich Chekhov**

* January 29, 1860 – July 15th, 1904
* Russian playwright and short story writer
* Considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history.
* He practiced as a medical doctor throughout his career as a writer/playwright.
* “Medicine is my lawful wife, and literature is my mistress.”
* He originally wrote for money but his artistic ambition grew and he made innovations which influenced the evolution of the short story.
* He said the role of the artist was to ask questions, not to answer them.
* He married a woman in 1901 but they lived apart and he would go visit her.
* He died in 1904 of tuberculosis, which is an infectious disease that affects the lungs.