

# Three Readings of the Same Ending



Figure 1: Three teenagers sit around a school cafeteria table with a paperback book open between them, one pointing at a page, another holding a

Readers may interpret texts differently according to their prior knowledge and personal experiences. "The ending's happy," she said. "He forgives his brother." Dez shook his head. "No way. It's ironic. The last line means he never will." Priya looked between them. "You're both reading the same words." Maya shrugged. "My cousin and I stopped talking last year. Maybe that's why I want forgiveness in there." Dez tapped the page. "Look how the narrator describes the porch light going out right after 'I forgive you.' That's not an accident. That's symbolism." Students should identify explicit and implicit ideas and information in texts. "Let's find the actual line. Evidence first, then opinions." They reread the paragraph slowly, checking tone, checking the narrator's choices. By the bell, nobody had fully agreed..

## Words to know

- **irony**: when the real meaning is different from, or opposite to, what is literally said or expected

- **symbolism**: using an object or image to represent a deeper idea
- **narrator**: the voice telling the story

Curriculum link: [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)  
[Listen to the narration](#)

AILI audio story · en · claude-sonnet-5 · 2026-09-17 · efac10be-8df6-498e-8166-4efcd9fb6f62