Irony Mini-Lesson

There are three different kinds of irony:
- Verbal
- Situational
- Dramatic

**Verbal Irony:** This type of irony is when speakers or writers use language to express a meaning quite opposite from the supposed intent of their words.

Example:

**Situational Irony:** This type of irony is when what you might reasonably expect to happen does not. In fact, the opposite does!

Example:

**Dramatic Irony:** Dramatic irony occurs when the audience knows something that the people in the fiction or drama do not.

Example:

**Note to self:** When human beings perceive irony, their feelings usually range from wry laughter (“Isn’t life weird?”) to thoughtfulness (“Why does this seem so ridiculous?”).

**Directions:** For each example, tell whether it shows **dramatic, situational, or verbal** irony. In each blank, **write D, S or V** to show the type.

1. Alicia is sure that Felix will ask her to the prom. He has been flattering her and flirting with her all week. He finally approaches her at lunch, and says he has to ask her something. But what he says is, “Do you think your sister will go to the prom with me?”

2. You are Mersault, looking out the window of your apartment building. You can see a woman jogging down the sidewalk wearing headphones. You can also see a rabid, drooling dog chasing after her, gaining on her, but she has no idea it is behind her because the music she is listening to drowns out the sounds around her. The dog gets closer and closer to biting her.
You are walking home from school on a dismal, forbidding afternoon. You just had possibly the worst day of your life, and everything seemed to have slipped through your fingers. As you try to step over a huge mud puddle onto the sidewalk, you trip and fall face first into the brown water. You are just about to shout, “Can this day get ANY worse?” when you feel something on the ground—it’s a $100 bill!

It’s Monday morning, and you walk into English class. Ms. Elmore turns on the projector and announces that it’s time learn our new vocabulary words. Everyone groans, and you hear someone mutter, “Come on guys, vocabulary is so much fun!”

You overhear an obsequious girl boasting to all of her confidants about how all of the guys are in love with her. But you can hear the comments that all of the guys standing around her are making about how much they do not like her. She just keeps on going on and on, convinced that she is Miss Wonderful.

Directions: Now fill in the chart below using your knowledge of irony. You should have at least one example of each type of irony.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Barbie Doll”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“My Son the Fanatic”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Where are you Going? Where have you Been?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
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<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fahrenheit 451</td>
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Extension: On a separate sheet of notebook paper, create one original illustration that represents each type of irony.