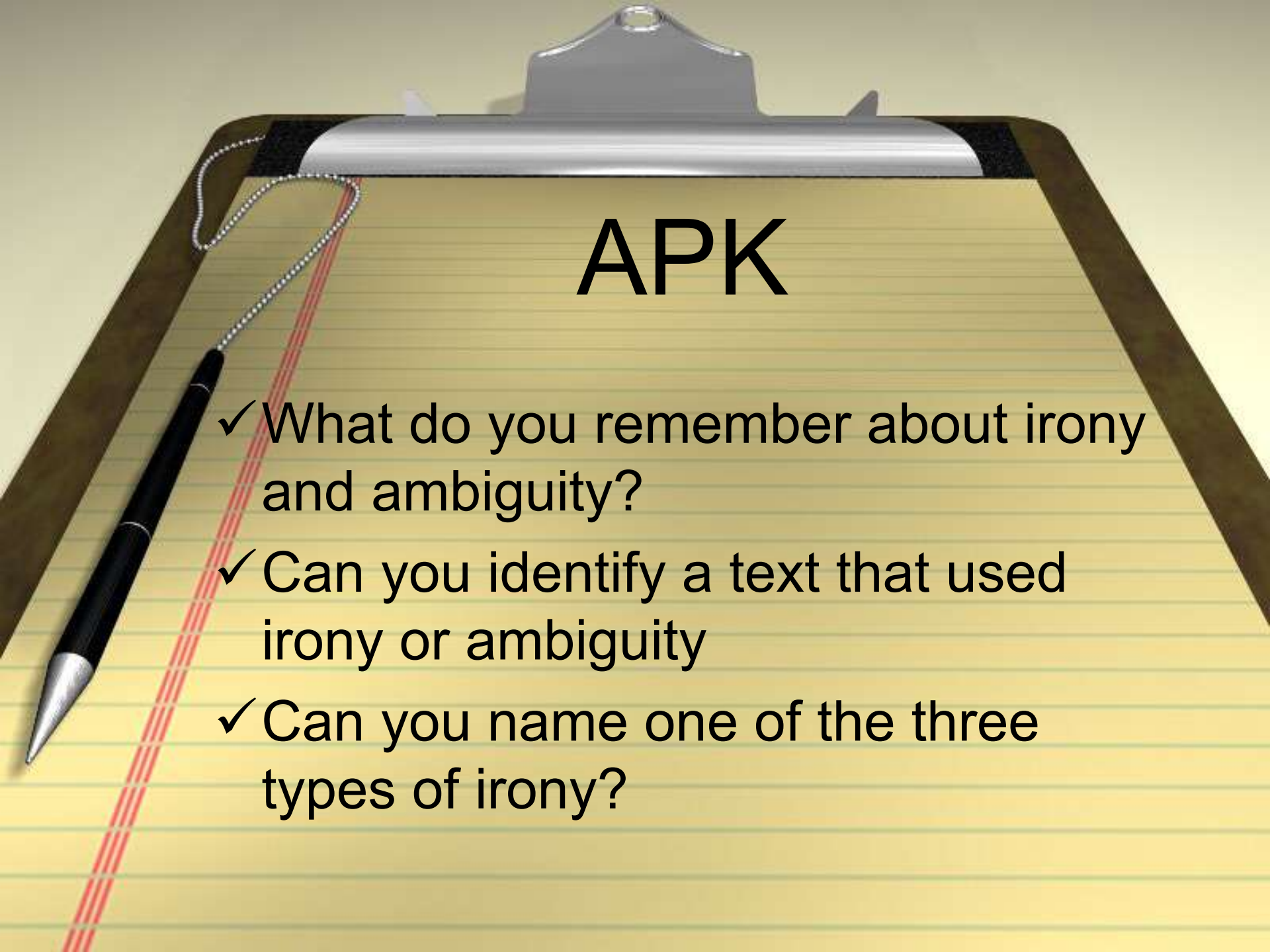
Irony and Ambiguity

English II

Objective: We will identify and define irony and ambiguity

Paraphrase our objective.
What does it mean?



APK

- ✓ What do you remember about irony and ambiguity?
- ✓ Can you identify a text that used irony or ambiguity
- ✓ Can you name one of the three types of irony?

Concept Development: Irony

- ✓ Verbal--when someone says one thing but means the opposite
- ✓ Situational--an occurrence that is not just surprising; it is the opposite of what we expected
- ✓ Dramatic--when we (the audience) know what is in store for a character, but the character does not know

a. Situational Irony

When the opposite of what we expected happens.

For Example:

When John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, all of his shots initially missed the President; however a bullet ricocheted off the bullet-proof windows of the Presidential limousine and struck Reagan in the chest. Thus, the windows made to protect the President from gunfire were partially responsible for his being shot.

CFU: Tell you partner an example of situational irony from life, a movie, or a book.

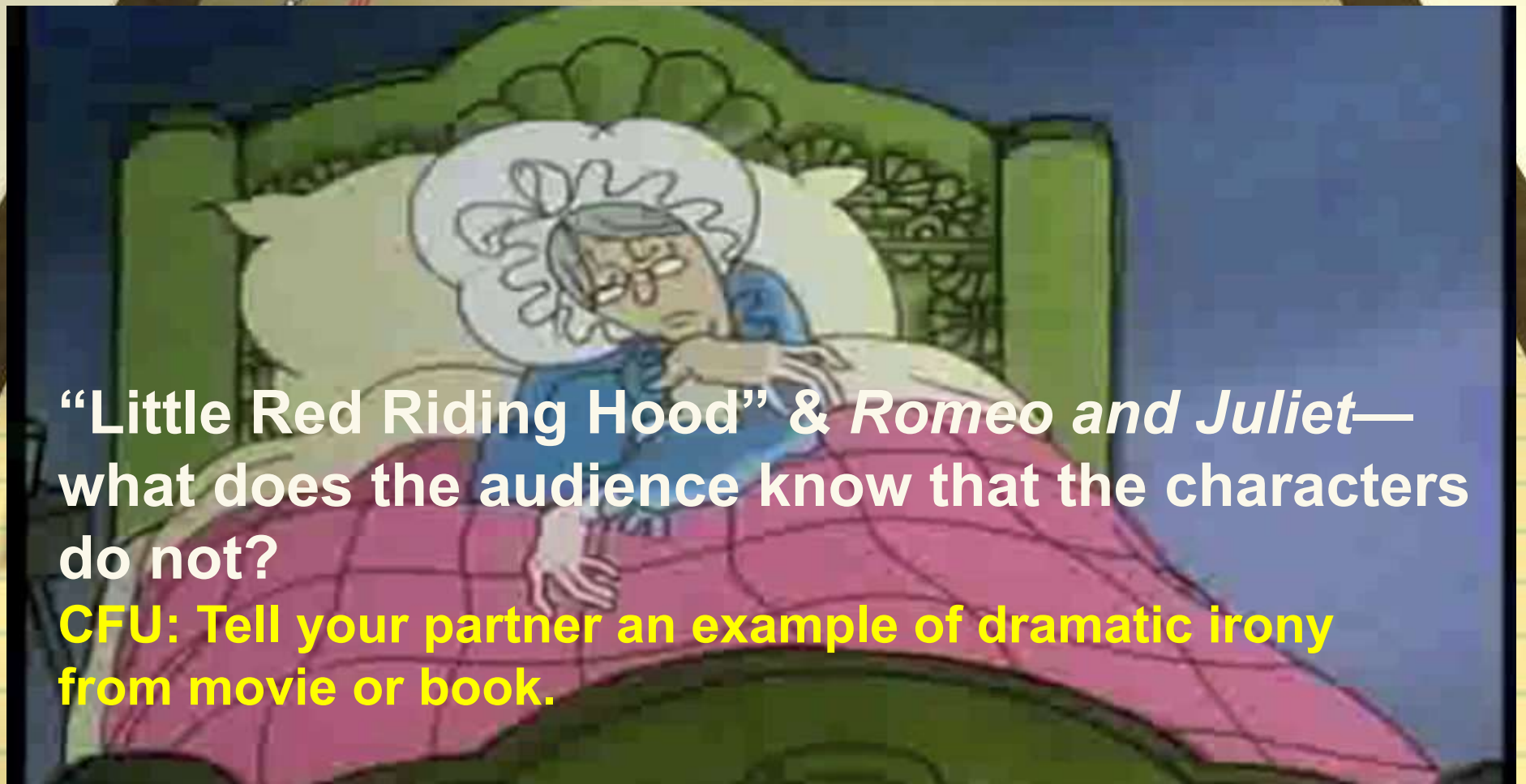
For Example:

Jim Fixx, who did much to popularize jogging as a form of healthy exercise in his 1977 book *The Complete Book of Running,* died at the age of 52 of a heart attack while out jogging.

CFU: What makes this an example of situational irony?

b. Dramatic Irony

When we (the audience) know what is in store for a character, but the character does not know.



"Little Red Riding Hood" & *Romeo and Juliet*— what does the audience know that the characters do not?

CFU: Tell your partner an example of dramatic irony from movie or book.

c. Verbal Irony

When you say one thing but you mean something else

- **That thing was very good!**
- Sarcasm is verbal irony that is meant to criticize.

Yet another example of precise and descriptive language!

CFU: Tell your partner an example of verbal irony from life, a movie, or a book.

Concept Development: Ambiguity

- ✓ Offers readers a choice of more than one meaning or interpretation
- ✓ Keeps readers guessing, wondering, and reflecting

Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature

- "[Ambiguity] allows for two or more simultaneous interpretations of a word, phrase, action, or situation, all of which can be supported by the context of a work. Deliberate ambiguity can contribute to the effectiveness and richness of a work.... However, unintentional ambiguity obscures meaning and can confuse readers."

Why use ambiguity?

- ✓ Ambiguous stories tend to linger in readers' minds the longest because ambiguity challenges readers' imaginations.
- ✓ They encourage readers to discuss their thoughts and ideas with others.

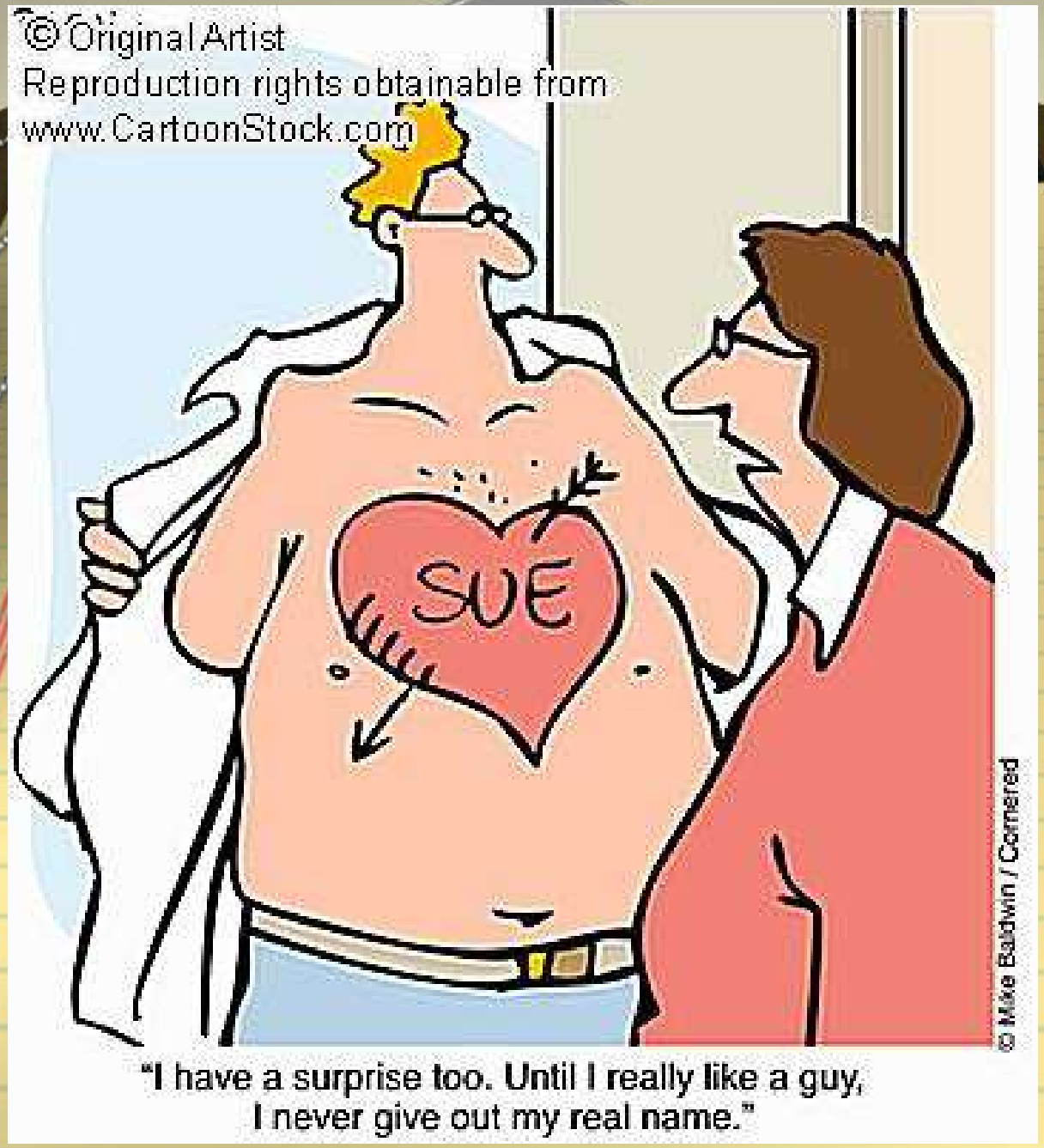
CFU: Tell your partner an example of a movie, book, or story that is ambiguous.

Irony Practice

- ✓ Look at the pictures, and decide which type of irony they represent:
- ✓ Verbal
- ✓ Situational
- ✓ Dramatic

HORSEY
MIDEAST
OIL
SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS
IRONY?
WHAT
IRONY?

There are basically two kinds of human beings
WWW.WULFFMORGENTHALER.COM


©Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com
SUE
© Mike Baldwin / Cornered
"I have a surprise too. Until I really like a guy,
I never give out my real name."

Copyright © 2008 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

VIACOM
Childhood obesity.
Don't take it lightly.
Food Stamps can help. Call 1-888-328-3483 to see if you qualify.
4151
VIACOM
I'm lovin' it
my kinda
shoppin'
spree
Dollar Menu

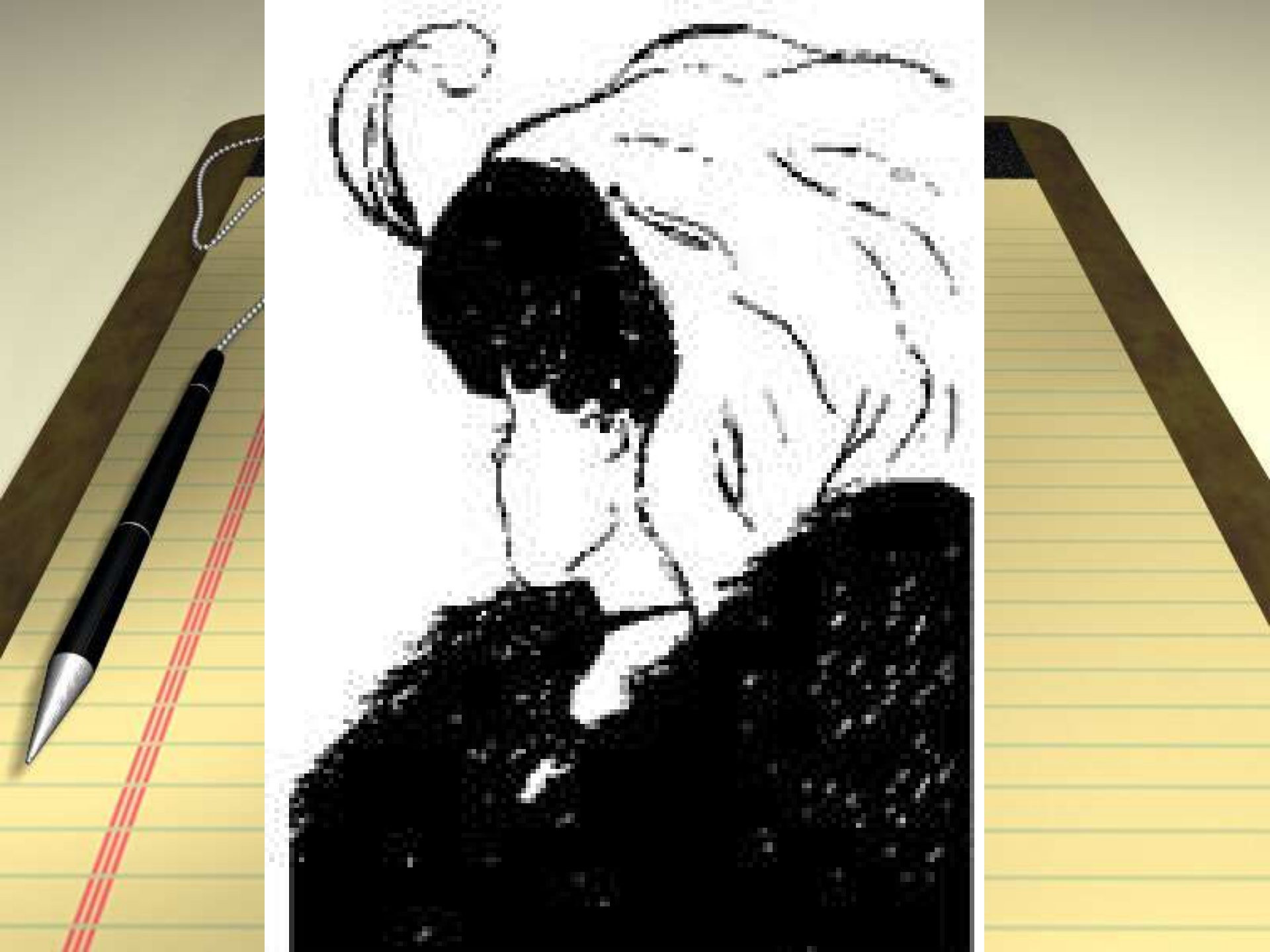
DEAD
END

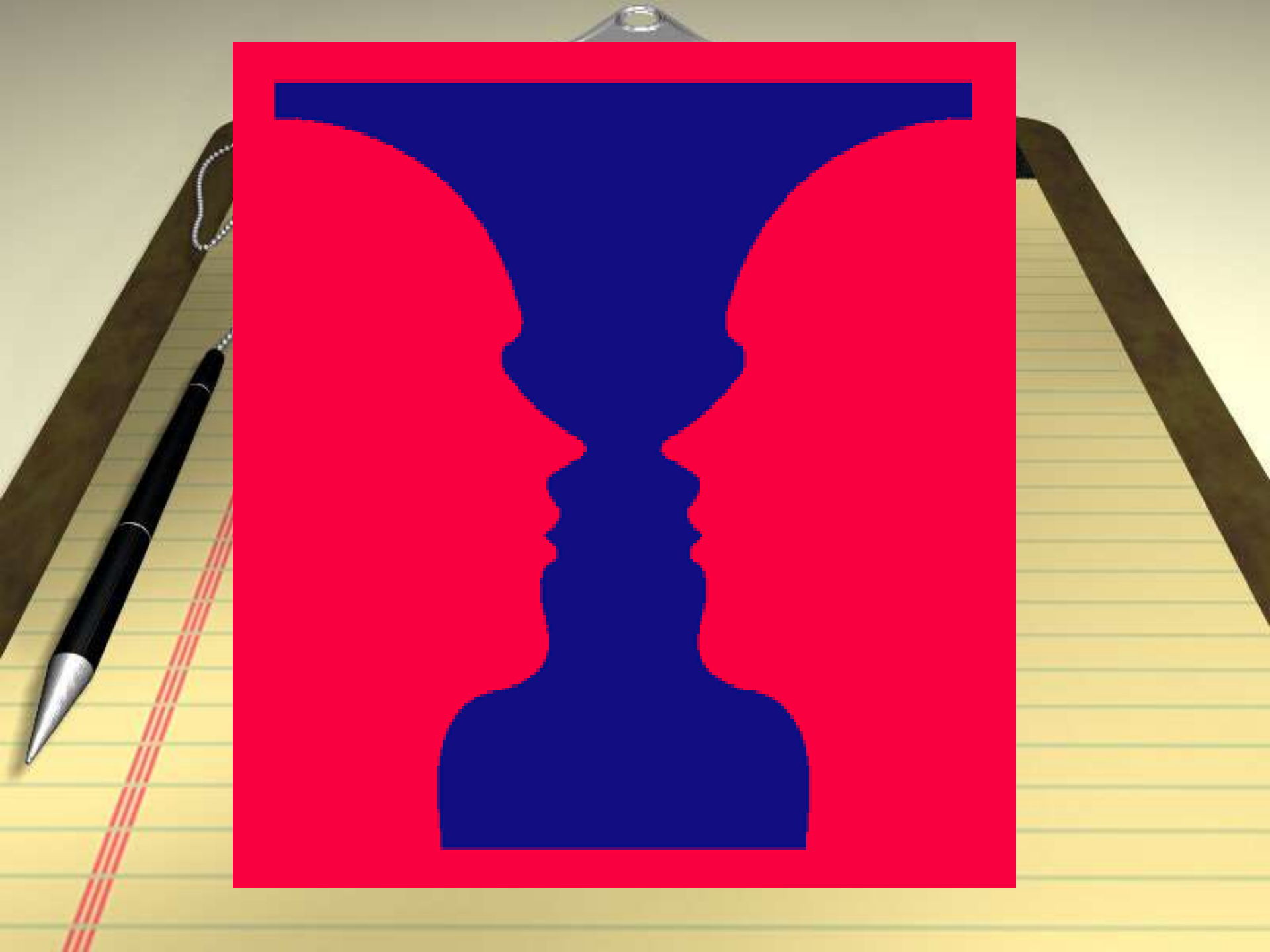
24
FITNESS

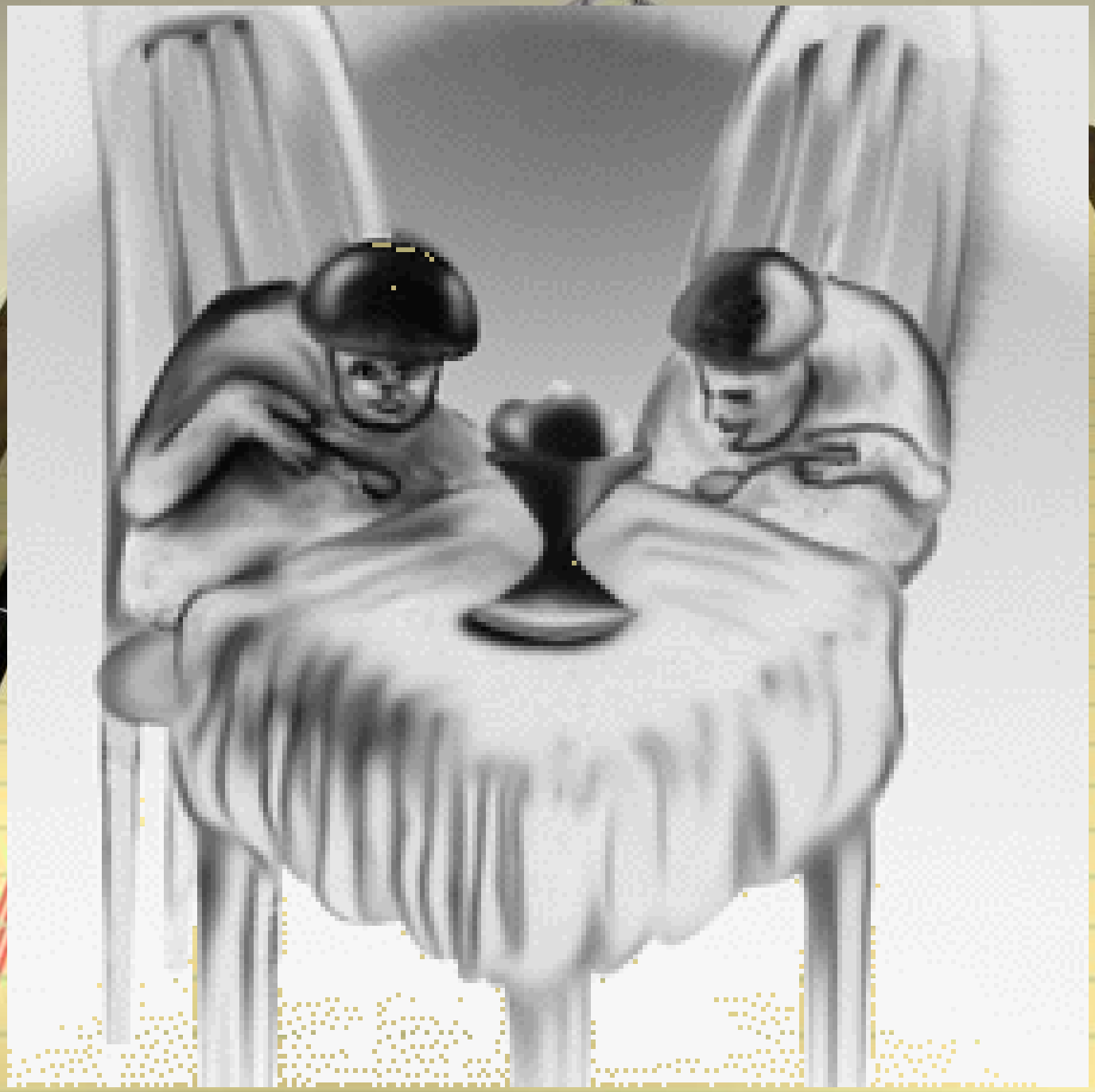
JAWS

Ambiguity Practice

- ✓ Look at the pictures, and decide why they are ambiguous.

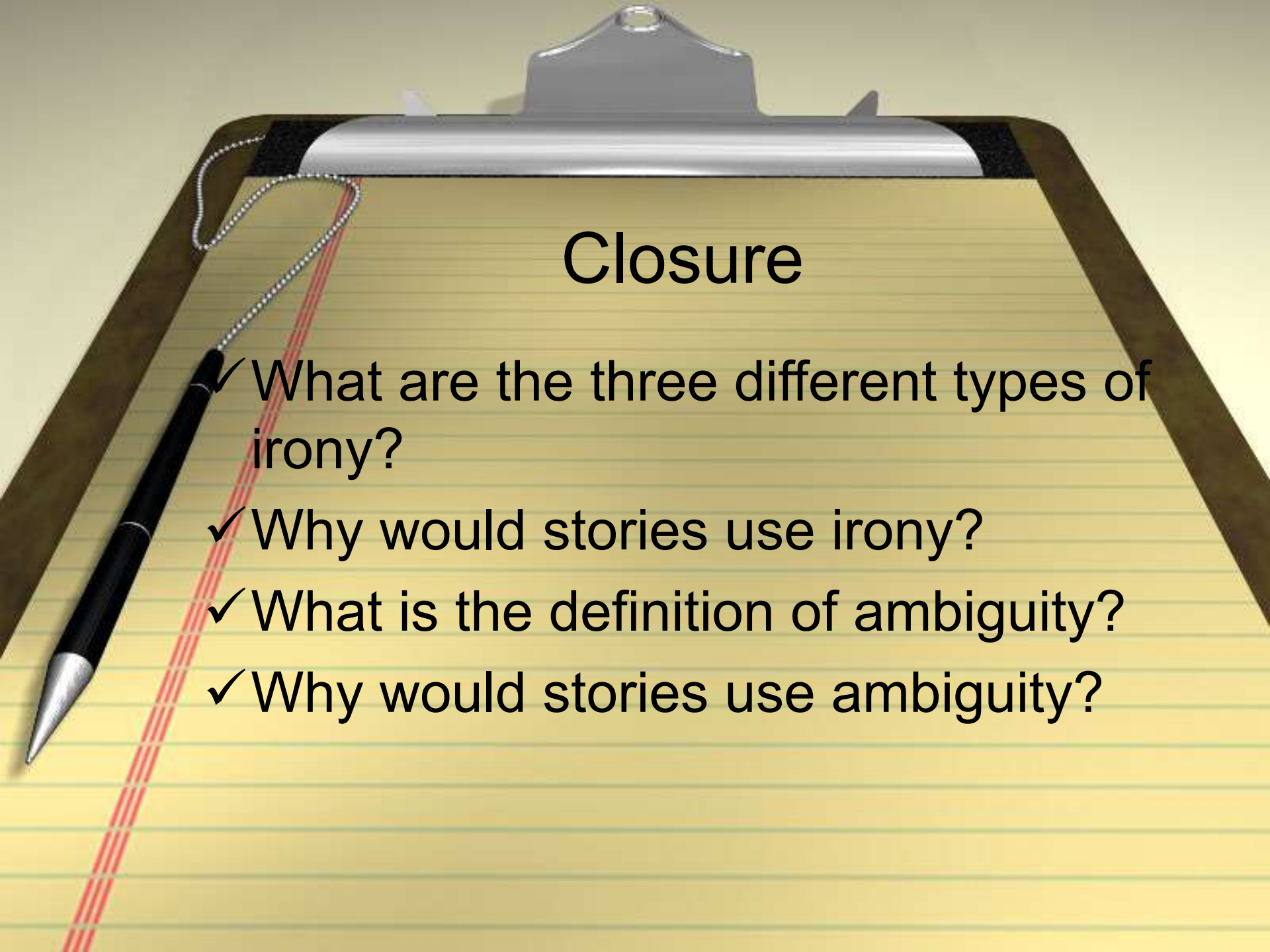






What is ambiguous about these sentences?

- The girl skipped happily by the bank.
- The man looked at the boy with the telescope.
- The handsome man was wearing a light suit.
- At the zoo, I saw the little boy



Closure

- ✓ What are the three different types of irony?
- ✓ Why would stories use irony?
- ✓ What is the definition of ambiguity?
- ✓ Why would stories use ambiguity?

Independent Practice

- **USE YOUR PHONES TO FIND EXAMPLES ONLINE**
- Find a movie or story that uses irony
  - Identify the type of Irony and explain its effect on the audience
- Find a movie or story that uses ambiguity.
  - Identify what is ambiguous and explain its effect on the audience