

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Bathos



# Bathos

Bathos is a literary device in which a writer begins a sentence or scene in a serious and poetic tone and then pivots to say something mundane and/or absurd. When done skillfully, the effect is comic.

## Examples:

- He spent the last moments of his life trying to find the answer to a question that had haunted him all of his life: how many licks DID it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?
- Though she had begged him for years, the man remained stubbornly committed to the single decision he felt that he had ever made completely by himself. The distraught woman, refusing to give up, pleaded with her husband: Please, I'm begging you, no more plaid boxer shorts.

**DIRECTIONS:** Try your hand at bathos. Write a sentence that begins in a serious way, and that concludes with something silly.

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