

# Deus ex machina & Eucatastrophe

## Deus ex machina

- Unbelievable
- Doesn't fit with the story
- Comes from the outside
- Happy ending - neatly ties loose ends
- Hope is not a factor
- Artificial, random, forced

## Eucatastrophe

- Believable
- Fits with the story
- From within the story
- Happy ending - mixed with sorrow and failure
- Hope prevails
- Natural part of the story

## Similarities

- Sudden
- Unexpected
- Miraculous
- Happy Ending

# Deus ex machina

## Deus ex machina – god from the machine

- Refers to ancient Greek theater
- A god is mechanically brought on stage to resolve the plot
- The hero is saved from doom
- Viewed negatively
- Strains *suspension of disbelief*

# HANDOUT: Eucatastrophe

*Eucatastrophe*: good catastrophe

- Greek
  - *eu* (good)
  - *catastrophe* (destruction)
- More than a happy ending
- It is a sudden, joyous “turn” in the story (no true end to a fairy-story)
- It is a miraculous grace, never to be counted on to recur
- Does not deny the existence of sorrow and failure
- Does deny a universal final defeat, giving a fleeting glimpse of joy

# HANDOUT: Suspension of Disbelief

Samuel L. Coleridge,  
*Biographia Literaria* (1817)

“...My endeavours should be directed to persons and characters supernatural, or at least romantic, yet so as to transfer from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth sufficient to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing *suspension of disbelief* for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith.”

## TITLE: Joy & Suffering

- John 16:22
- Romans 12:12
- 2 Corinthians 7:4
- 2 Corinthians 8:2
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6
- James 1:2
- John 16:33

**DIRECTIONS:**  
*Write down the verse references, but not the actual verses.  
Then read the verses.*

## TITLE: Joy & Suffering

Read all the verses listed. Then write 1-2 paragraphs that explore the relationship between joy and suffering.

## TITLE: Glamdring

PAGE 28

- Glue sword
- Answer questions on checklist

## TITLE: Orcrist

PAGE 29

- Glue sword
- Answer questions on checklist

## HANDOUT: “In the Hilt is Fame” (2 pg) PAGES 30 & 31

- Glue pages

## TITLE: “In the Hilt is Fame”

PAGE 33

- Follow prompt on checklist