

# Deus ex machina & Eucatastrophe

## Deus ex machina

- Unbelievable
- Doesn't fit with the story
- Comes from the outside
- Happy ending - 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 & 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*

# Eucatastrophe

## *Eucatastrophe*: good catastrophe

- Greek *eu* (good) and *catastrophe* (destruction)
- More than a happy ending
- A sudden, joyous twist in the story.
- Does not deny the existence of sorrow and failure.
- Does deny a universal final defeat, offering hope.

## TITLE: Suspension of Disbelief

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

“...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.”