

Allusion: Crocodile Tears



Crocodile Tears

Crocodiles were once thought to shed large tears before devouring their prey. This belief, which dates to ancient times, comes from the fact that crocodiles have small ducts in the corner of their eyes that release “tears” when it opens its jaws wide. There are no real feelings of sympathy for its prey.



Meaning

Thus, to shed crocodile tears is to show
false sympathy for someone.



Examples

- **Although Judy shed crocodile tears for Maria when Maria was passed over for the promotion, it was apparent that Maria's loss was seen by Judy as an opportunity to advance her own position in the company.**
- **The villain in the play shed crocodile tears for the hero, but the audience knew that the hero's downfall was directly caused by the villain's trickery.**

