

**Rhetoric Literature Year 2**  
**Rape of the Locke – Alexander Pope**  
**Modest Proposal – Jonathan Swift**  
**Due Co-op #14**

**Poetics:** Read p. 207 -209 – Enlightenment Literature 1715-1777 & Literature in America During the Neoclassical Era

**Vocabulary:** Add to your vocabulary/terms

Heroic Verse – Lines of iambic pentameter that rhyme in couplets

Parody – A literary imitation that twists or even inverts what it is imitating, most often written for the purpose of 1) mocking, 2) praising, or 3) playfully referencing the original

Pleonasm – a description that uses more words than are necessary, in an effort to do justice to the subject. It is also used as hyperbole and mocking satire.

Irony – a device of artistic contrast, usually involving inversion and incongruity. Irony often occurs when things should match but don't, or when they are exactly the opposite of what is intended or expected.

Satire – a genre in which human vice or folly is exposed, through ridicule or rebuke

**Watch**

What is Satire? End is a little weird, but the rest is good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn9JRyTqzOQ>

Parody vs. Satire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ix0RGKokLE>

Weird AI “Word Crimes” – for fun☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Gv0H-vPoDc>

## **Jonathan Swift – “A Modest Proposal” – *Norton’s Anthology***

**Read** biographical info about Swift in *Norton’s*. List 5 interesting things about his life & work:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Read** the attached page about satire.

**Read** “Modest Proposal” (in *Norton’s*) make sure to read notes at bottom of page or info on line)

What social issues is Swift satirizing?

Look for ways that people satirize social/political issues today. List three examples you find.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Alexander Pope – “Rape of the Locke” – *Norton’s Anthology*

Read biographical info about Pope in *Norton’s*. You may skim the middle part and reconnect toward end when this work is mentioned. List 5 interesting things about his life & work:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Read the introduction to “Rape of the Locke” and then the poem itself (in *Norton’s*). After reading so many epics and surviving *Paradise Lost*☺, this should be really fun and funny.

This is a parody of an epic based on a true event. List 5 different epic characteristics that you see in this work.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What did you find most humorous in this parody?

from literarydevices.net

## Satire Definition

Satire is a technique employed by writers to expose and criticize foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society by using [humor](#), [irony](#), [exaggeration](#) or ridicule. It intends to improve humanity by criticizing its follies and foibles. A writer in a satire uses fictional characters, which stand for real people, to expose and condemn their corruption.

A writer may point a satire toward a person, a country or even the entire world. Usually, a satire is a comical piece of writing, which makes fun of an individual or a society to expose its stupidity and shortcomings. In addition, he hopes that those he criticizes will improve their characters by overcoming their weaknesses.

## Satire and Irony

Satire and irony are interlinked. Irony is the difference between what is said or done and what is actually meant. Therefore, writers frequently employ satire to point at the dishonesty and silliness of individuals and society and criticize them by ridiculing them.

## Examples of Satire in Everyday Life

Most political cartoons which we witness every day in newspapers and magazines are examples of satire. These cartoons criticize some recent actions of political figures in a comical way.

Some shows on television are satire examples like *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Larry Sanders Show*. These shows [claim](#) to target what they think are stupid political and social viewpoints.

Let us see a sample of Stephen Colbert's social satire:

"If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that He commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it."

## Satire Examples in Literature

### Example #1

There are numerous examples of satire in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*. He uses satire as a tool to share his ideas and opinion on slavery, human nature and many other issues that afflicted American society at that time.

### Example #2

Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* is an example of poetic satire in which he has satirized the upper middle class of eighteenth century England. It exposes the vanity of young fashionable ladies and gentlemen and the frivolity of their actions.

### Example #3

Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver Travels* is one of the finest satirical works in English Literature. Swift relentlessly satirizes politics, religion, and Western Culture. Criticizing party politics in England, Swift writes,

“that for above seventy Moons past there have been two struggling Parties in this Empire, under the Names of Tramecksan and Slamecksan from the high and low Heels on their shoes, by which they distinguish themselves.”

During Swift's times, two rival political parties, the Whigs and the Tories, dominated the English political scene. Similarly, “The Kingdom of Lilliput” is dominated by two parties distinguished by the size of the heels of their boots. By the trivial disputes between the two Lilliputian parties”, Swift satirizes the minor disputes of the two English parties of his period.

## Function of Satire

The role of satire is to ridicule or criticize those vices in the society, which the writer considers a threat to civilization. The writer considers it his obligation to expose these vices for the betterment of humanity. Therefore, the function of satire is not to make others laugh at persons or ideas they make fun of. It intends to warn the public and to change their opinions about the prevailing corruption/conditions in society.