

# What is Satire?

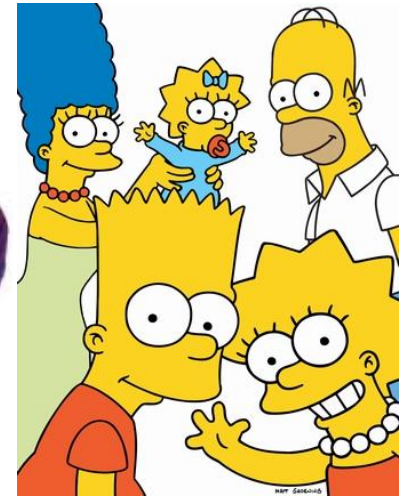




## Our Mission:

K<sup>12</sup> / Aventa Learning Instructional Services Team provides students the opportunity to become academically successful by providing rigorous curricula and instruction in a technology-enabled environment with its School Partners.

# That's Entertainment!



- What do these movies and t.v. shows have in common?



# What is a Satire?

More likable



Less likable

- A rhetorical device
- Uses sarcasm, irony or ridicule
- Purpose: to expose human vice, idiocy or sheer madness
- More examples:
  - Political cartoons
  - Things like *Mad Magazine*, *The Onion*, and *The Oatmeal*

# Shrek

- The Trailer:  
<http://youtu.be/nzPXo9Wq-hQ>
- What references to other fairy tales does *Shrek* make?
- How is it different than the typical fairy tale?
- What effect do these references have?
- What is the purpose of this movie?
- What satirical comment is it trying to make?





# KEY ELEMENTS OF SATIRE

# Hyperbole

- An exaggeration



These books weigh a ton!



He's like a bull in a china shop.

# Understatement

- Downplaying or minimizing a situation







# Irony

- Expressing the unexpected; things aren't always what they seem



The Old Women's Leonardo DiCaprio Site

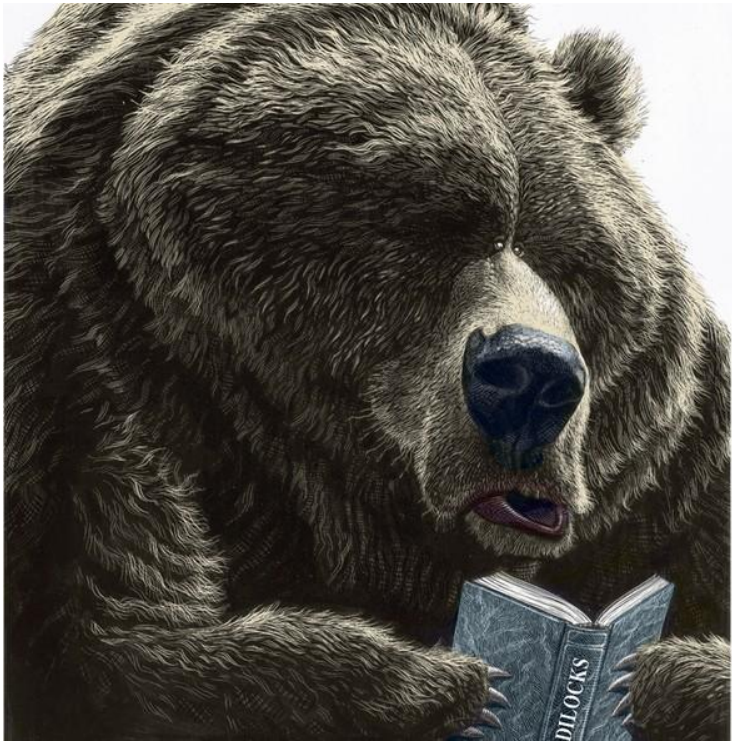
Romeo finds Juliet “dead”, but we know that she is alive!



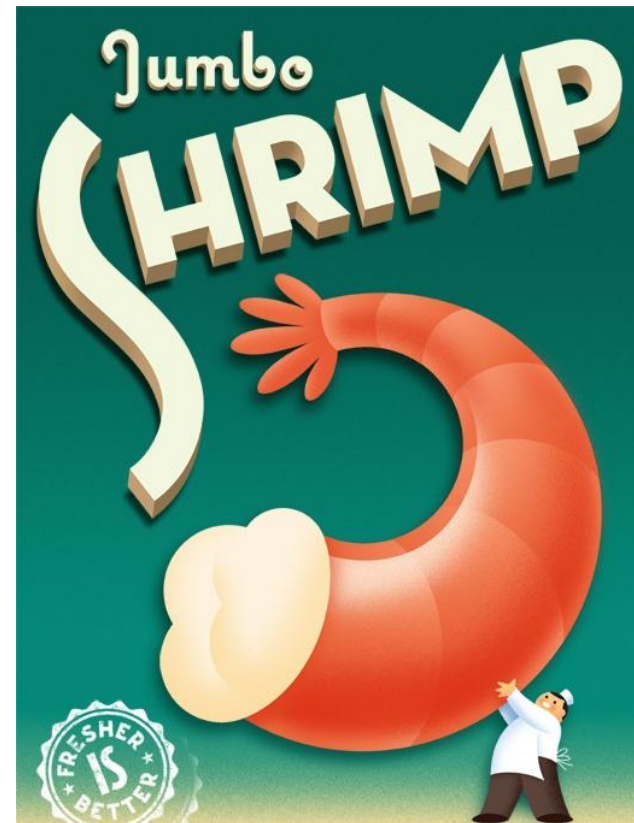
Child-eating ice cream cones? What?!?

# Oxymoron

- Juxtaposing two unlike terms



A reading bear?



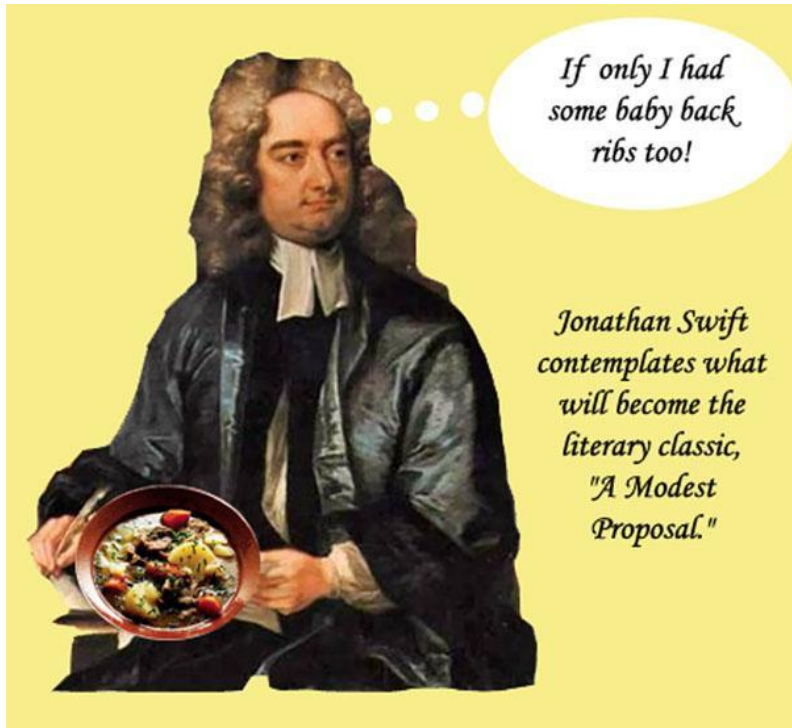
# Sarcasm

- Saying the opposite of what you mean



# A Modest Proposal:

*For Preventing The Children of Poor People in Ireland From Being A Burden to Their Parents or Country, and For Making Them Beneficial to The Public by Jonathan Swift (1729)*



- Whoa! Who would propose such things?!?!
- This is a classic example of satire.
- Swift is not sincere about his proposal.
- His tone = earnest & serious throughout.
- BUT...he is not serious.
- Analysis:
  - What problems is he addressing?
  - What suggestions does he make?
  - What do you think he is really saying?



# Outlining a Satirical Argument

- **Tip:** You aren't writing an entire essay....just completing an outline. Be sure to download the worksheet to complete this assignment (located in the course curriculum).
- Your satirical essay should be modeled after "A Modest Proposal" so it must include the following:
  - Identification of the issue
  - A mock solution that demonstrates even more intensely the problem
  - At least three ridiculous reasons why the solution will work (use your tools of satire here)
  - A conclusion that brings home the message you want to send
  - Humor
  - Identification of the real point of the author
- **Be creative and have fun with this assignment. A good sense of humor is essential.**



# An Example

## 1. Identify an issue or problem that you want to solve.

- Example: Solution to global warming.

## 2. Brainstorm potential solutions to this topic. Remember, you are crafting satire. Be **outrageous** with just the smallest amount of credibility. You must frame them in a way that suggests they are a viable solution to the problem.

- Solution 1: All adults are principal contributors toward global warming. Therefore, every adult will be anesthetized for a 12 hour period during daylight hours in order to curtail any activities which will contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By significantly lowering activities during daylight hours, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which cause global warming will decrease.

## 3. Stop and think. Reevaluate your solution to make sure it is effective.

- Can you imagine a culture where every adult voluntarily was put under anesthesia for 12 hours every day? Of course not. This is why this argument is effective satire. While the topic is serious, the solution is not.

# Questions?

- Just ask me...that's what I'm here for!
- Use the "Resources" button...you'll find lots of helpful tips for this and other assignments.

