

Subject Code:	<b>Eng3</b>
LG Code: 6.0	<b>The Puritan Period and the Age of Classicism (1620-1780)</b>
Lesson Code: 6.3	<b>Satirical Elements</b>
Time Limit	<b>30 minutes</b>
Materials: Progress tracking sheet	

*In the previous module, you read and analyze the satirical essay of Jonathan Swift entitle A Modest Proposal. This module will be about the elements of satire used by the essayist to propose bizarre solutions to the poverty and exploitation of women and children in Ireland.*



### **Target**

TA: 1 min ATA: \_\_\_\_\_

*By the end of this module, the students will have been able to:*

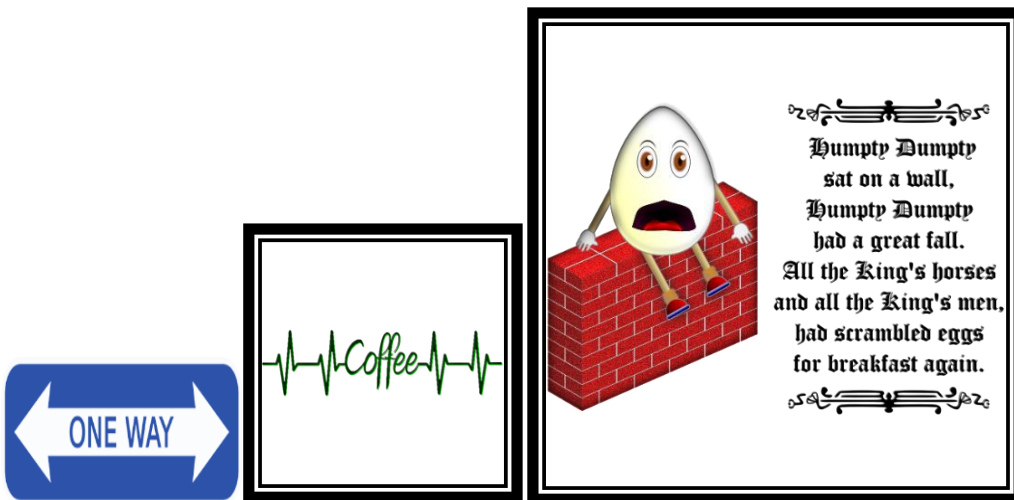
- identify the elements of a satire;
- detect satirical elements in the essay; and
- list the types of satires.



### **Hook**

TA: 3 mins ATA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1. Think outside the box:** Reflect on the possible meaning of each image.



Source: Images from freeSVG.org

*Processing questions:*

What does each picture suggest?

What technique is used to convey this idea?



### **Ignite**

TA: 14 mins ATA: \_\_\_\_\_

A satire is a technique in writing that presents ridiculous ideas for social reform. It is used to expose and criticize individuals or society through humor, irony, or ridicule.

**Task 2. Discover:** Watch this video about satires. List the types of satire mentioned in the video.



*Processing questions:*

1. What is the origin of satire?
2. What are the varieties of satire?
3. What are the two main suggestions given for the readers to better understand satire?

Elements of a Satire

The most common elements of satire are as follows:

- A. Irony uses a statement that means the opposite of its intended meaning.  
*Cassandra of Greek mythology professes the future but no one believes her.*
- B. Sarcasm is a form of irony that uses mockery and spiteful words.  
*Shall I send a rescue team to help you answer the quiz?*
- C. Parody is used to spoof or trivialize personalities or any subject matter.  
*Caricature of politicians highlighting their flaws.*
- D. Understatement presents something as less important than it actually is.  
*He is never been better in the hospital.*
- E. Overstatement presents something as greater than it actually is.  
*He kept falling with his giant feet.*
- F. Incongruity presents things that are out of place or absurd in relation to ordinary circumstances.  
*A wealthy man driving an old broken car.*
- G. Reversal presents the opposite of the normal order.  
*The youngest child makes the decision in the family.*



### Think about it!

To detect the satirical elements in a text, consider if all the information is true. Be mindful of the point the author is trying to make and spot the techniques used by the writer to emphasize this idea.



### Navigate

TA: 10 mins ATA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 3. Online quiz:** Read the given statements and identifying the dominant satirical element used in each item. Write the answer on the blank before the number. Also, underline the keywords/phrases that convey satire. (15 points)

irony

sarcasm

parody

understatement

overstatement

incongruity

reversal

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. "A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends; and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter."

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. "For this kind of commodity will not bear exportation, the flesh being of too tender a consistence to admit a long continuance in salt, although perhaps I could name a country which would be glad to eat up our whole nation without it."

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. "whoever could find out a fair, cheap and easy method of making these children sound and useful members of the common-wealth, would deserve so well of the public, as to have his statue set up for a preserver of the nation."

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Those who are more thrifty (as I must confess the times require) may flay the carcass; the skin of which artificially dressed will make admirable gloves for ladies, and summer boots for fine gentlemen."

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. "It is a melancholy object to walk through this great town, or travel in the country, when they see the streets, the roads, and cabin doors crowded with beggars of the female sex, followed by three, four, or six children, all in rags and all importuning every passenger for an alms."

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. "I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children."

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. "I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee, or ragouts."

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. "I profess in the sincerity of my heart, that I have not the least personal interest in endeavouring to promote this necessary work, having no other motive than the publick good of my country, by advancing our trade, providing for infants, relieving the poor, and giving some



pleasure to the rich. I have no children, by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine years old, and my wife past child-bearing.”



TA: 2 mins ATA: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Summary of the Lesson*

Satire in literature is the use of wit, mockery, or humor for social awareness and criticism. A writer may satirize individuals, society, government, culture, and religion to bring attention and solution to the abuses, vices, and inequalities.

The satirical essay “A Modest Proposal” of Jonathan Swift offers a potential solution to Ireland's poverty and food shortage. His arguments centered on eating the babies and profiting their meat and skin to help the economy. The writer uses satirical elements namely irony, sarcasm, parody, reversal, incongruity, among others to support his arguments.

**Enrichment Activity:** Research on satirical elements present in modern cartoons, movies, or music.

*(Note: This lesson will be continued in the next module.)*

### References

LibGuides: English Literature: Literary Periods & Genres. (2020).

<https://mc.libguides.com/eng/literaryperiods>

Oregon State University. (2019). “What is a Satire?”: A Literary Guide for English Students and Teachers. Retrieved from Literary Guide for English Students and Teachers

Tiongson, M. & Rodriguez, M. (2016). Reading and Writing Skills. Philippines: Rex Bookstore Inc

Prepared by: **Kathleen F. Sanchez**  
Special Science Teacher II  
Central Luzon Campus

Reviewed by: **Mary Jane B. Suarez**  
Special Science Teacher IV  
Central Luzon Campus