

# Parody

## Parody Definition

Parody is an imitation of a particular writer, artist, or [genre](#), exaggerating it deliberately to produce a comic effect. The humorous effect in parody is achieved by imitating and overstressing noticeable features of a famous piece of literature, as in caricatures, where certain peculiarities of a person are highlighted to achieve a humorous effect.

We, in our daily lives, can employ the above technique to spoof somebody for the sake of fun. For example, there is an Indian student in your classroom, and one day, in a gathering of a few friends, you say,

“Will you veddy much bring me a Coke please?”

This imitation of an Indian accent is a parody.

Parody examples are often confused as examples of [satire](#). Although parody can be used to develop satire, it differs from satire to a certain extent.

Parody mimics a subject directly, to produce a comical effect. Satire, on the other hand, makes fun of a subject without a direct imitation. Moreover, satire aims at correcting shortcomings in society by criticizing them.

## Parody Examples in Everyday Life

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### Example #1: *TV Shows of Parody and Satire*

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In our daily watching of television, we may see extremely hilarious examples of parody in shows that blend parody and satire. Examples like *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Larry Sanders Show* are renowned for mimicking famous political personalities, and this allows them to target what they think are unintelligent political and social viewpoints.

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## Example #2: *Mimicking Movies*

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Parody has entered our day-to-day life through hilarious parody movies that mimic famous blockbusters. For instance, the movie *Vampire Sucks* parodies and pokes fun at the blockbuster *Twilight* series, which was a film adaptation of Stephanie Meyer's novel *Twilight*.

## Examples of Parody in Literature

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### Example #1: *Sonnet 130* (By William Shakespeare)

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William Shakespeare wrote [Sonnet 130](#) in parody of traditional love poems common in his day. He presents an anti-love poem [theme](#) in a manner of a love poem, mocking the exaggerated comparisons they made:

“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips’ red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks...”

Unlike a love-poem goddess, his mistress does not have eyes like the sun, she does not have red lips, nor does she have a white complexion. Her cheeks do not have a rosy color, and her hair is not silky smooth. All the cliché qualities are missing in his mistress. Such a description allows Shakespeare to poke fun at the love poets who looked for such impossible qualities in their beloved.

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### Example #2: *Don Quixote* (By Miguel de Cervantes)

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*Don Quixote*, written by Miguel de Cervantes, is a parody of romances written in his day. The main [character](#), Quixote, and his overweight sidekick Sancho, delude themselves to thinking that they are knights of the medieval romances. They believe that they are entrusted with the

obligation to save the world. Therefore, the adventure starts as an imitation of the real romances but of course, in a hilarious manner.

We laugh at how Quixote was bestowed knighthood in his battle with the giants [windmills]. We enjoy how the knight helps the Christian king against the army of a Moorish monarch [herd of sheep]. These and the rest of the incidents of the novel are written in the [style](#) of Spanish romances of the 16th century to mock the idealism of knights in the contemporary romances.

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### **Example #3: *Gulliver's Travels* (By Jonathan Swift)**

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Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* is a parody of travel narratives, as well as a satire on contemporary England. As the empire of England spread to far off lands, it became a center of navigation and exploration. Adventure and travel narratives telling stories of strange lands became popular.

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### **Example #4: *Robinson Crusoe* (By Daniel Defoe)**

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Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* was a travel [narrative](#). Swift adopted a similar mode to describe Gulliver's travels to the strange land of Lilliput, and other such places where he meets "Lilliputians," and the giant "Brobdingnagians." He also meets other strange creatures like "Laputians" and "Houyhnhnms," and the "Yahoos". The parody for Swift was intended as a satire on English society.

### **Function of Parody**

Parody is a kind of [comedy](#) that imitates and mocks individuals or a piece of work. However, when it mingles with satire, it makes satire more pointed and effective. Most importantly, a parody appeals to the reader's sense of [humor](#). He enjoys the writer poking fun at the set ideals of society, and becomes aware of the lighter side of an otherwise serious state of affairs. Thus, parody adds spice to a piece of literature that keeps the readers interested.