

A Modest Proposal

By Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)



Jonathon Swift is the author of *Gulliver's Travels*.

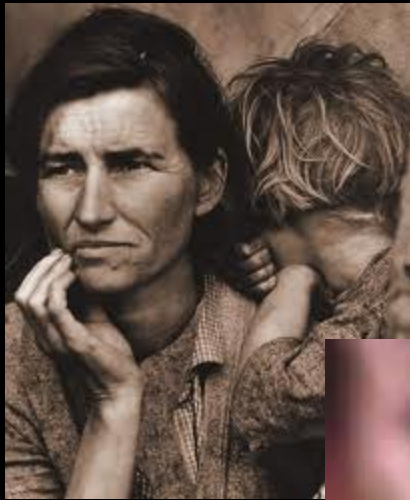
He published "A Modest Proposal" anonymously in Ireland in 1729.

In this "proposal" Swift suggests a solution for how to deal with all the children living in extreme poverty in Ireland at that time.

Swift was an author and clergyman in Ireland.

He grew up with out a father and was taken care of by his uncle because his mom was too poor to take care of him. Living with his uncle, Swift received a strong education and was able to succeed in life.

It is sad when I walk the streets and see all of the poor women. These women are followed by 3, 4, or 6 children wearing rags.

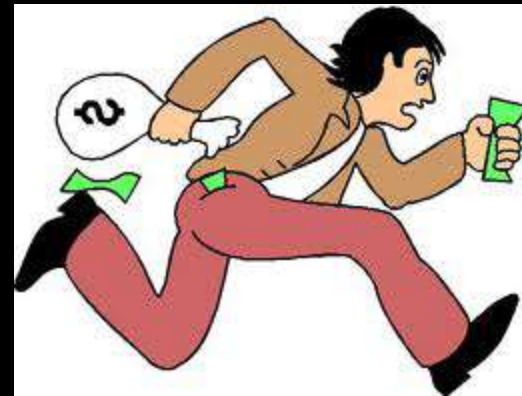


These women don't work hard to have a better life because they have to spend their time begging for food for their children.

Why help them because children will grow up to be thieves or will leave the country?



Beggars



Thieves



Ireland



Disappointed



Hero

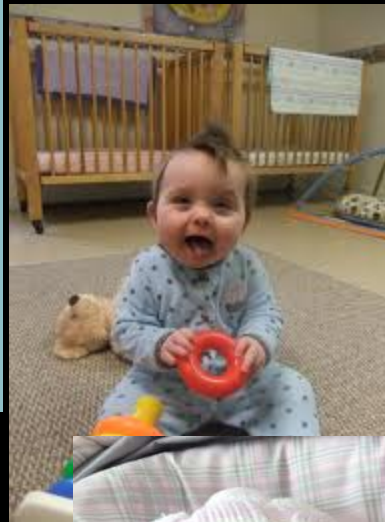


Statue



Everyone agrees that all of these poor women and children begging on the street makes our country a disappointment.

If there is a person who can come up with a plan or idea to fix this, they will be a hero in our country. We will make a statue for them.



My purpose is to not just focus on the beggars. I want to help all of the parents who are having a difficult time supporting their children.

I have been thinking about this for a long time and I believe our leaders have it wrong. It is true, a child can survive one year on the mother's milk. This will not cost the mother more than 2 shillings or a couple of scraps which she will earn from begging.



1 Year

Scraps



2 shillings

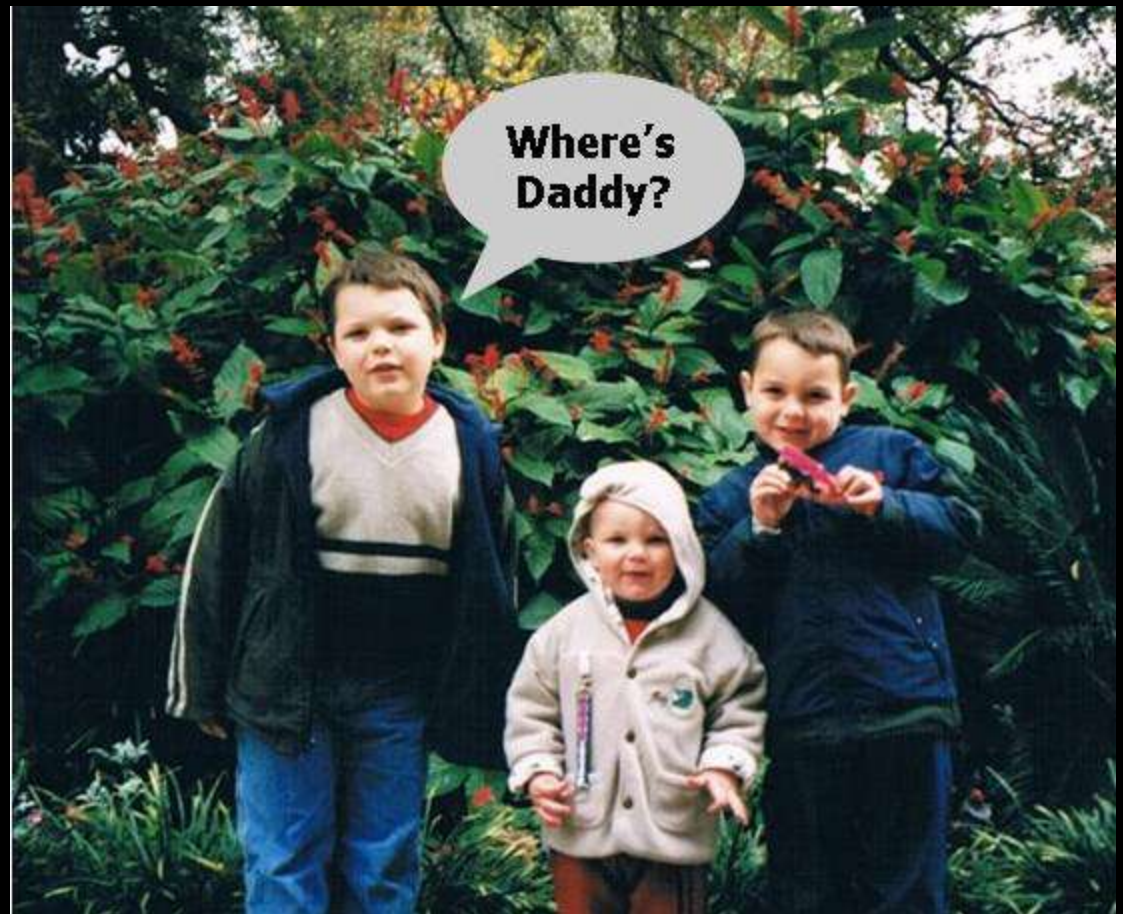
or



After the first year, I want to give the infants the opportunity to feed and clothe thousands of people. Therefore, they will not be a problem to their parents or to the church.



Another advantage to this plan is that it will stop women from having unnecessary abortions or from killing their fatherless children.

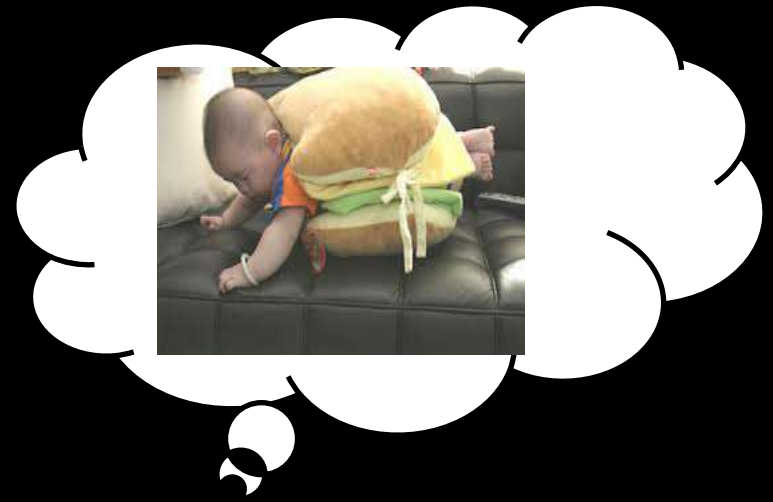


We must fix the poverty problem in this country!!!

I will now share my thoughts which I hope will be accepted by all of the people.

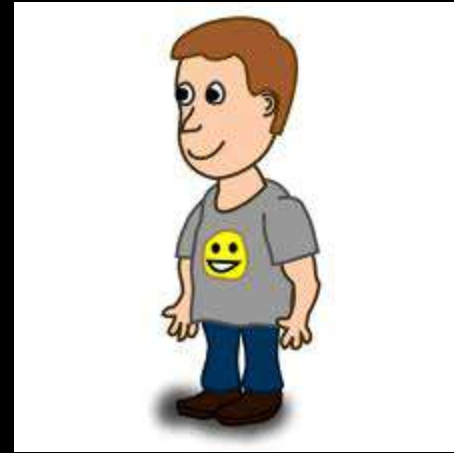


1-year-old children
make a tasty and
wholesome meal.
Check it out!



An American friend of mine has told me that a 1-year-old child that has been well-fed is a nourishing and wholesome meal. They are good in soup, baked, and boiled.

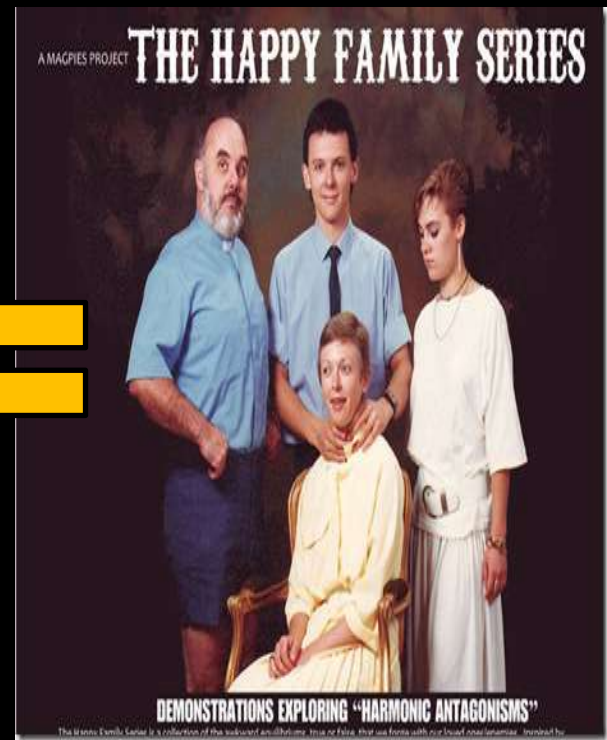
I want everyone to think about it. Of the 120,000 children, we need to keep 20,000 for making babies. One male will be good enough to breed with four females.





The other hundred thousand will be sold to wealthy families. We will tell the mothers to let the children eat a lot in the last month so that they become plump and fat for the table.

A good child will be enough to serve two dishes at a party with friends. The arms and legs, seasoned with salt and pepper and boiled on the fourth day, will be enough to feed a family.



I have already figured out how much it will cost to take care of babies belonging to beggars: 2 shillings a year.

I believe that any honest man will not refuse to give 10 shillings for the fat body of a child, which will make 4 meals.

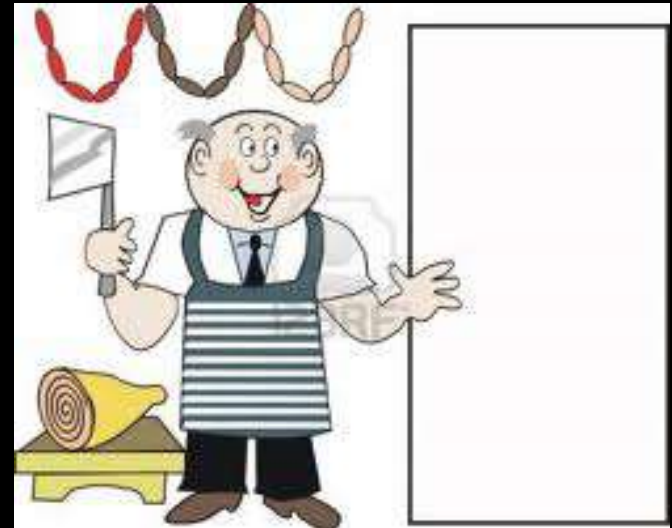


Those who do not waste anything (which is important during these times) may clean the body and use the skin to make beautiful gloves for the women and summer boots for the men.



As for our city of Dublin, slaughterhouses and meat markets can be used in this process, and butchers will not be without work.

I do recommend buying the children alive and cooking them hot from the knife, like we do roasted pigs.



I think the advantages of my ideas are obvious,
and there are many of them.



First, I believe that it will take away the number of Catholics. There are too many of them and they are the ones who keep having all of the babies.



Second, the poor will have something valuable of their own to pay rent. Right now they have nothing because their corn and cattle have been taken from them.

Thirdly, it will take care of children older than two years, and it will cost no more than 10 shillings. Our country is going to be rich and it's going to come from our own work.

Fourth, the people who make these babies will make 8 shillings a year. They will not have to worry about taking care of the children after the first year.

Sixth, this would be a great reason for people to get married. Mothers will be more kind and caring toward their babies because they know they will be receiving money.

There will also be more competition between women to see who can bring the fattest baby to the market

Husbands will also be kind to their wives when they are pregnant, just like they are to their animals when they get pregnant.

Husbands will not hit or kick their wives (which happens a lot) because they are afraid they might hurt the baby.

If you disagree with me, just ask the poor people if they wished they were sold when they were little to avoid being where they are today:

- 1. Being treated bad by landowners*
- 2. Not having money to pay rent*
- 3. Always wanting food*
- 4. Not having a house or clothes to protect them*
- 5. Passing their misery on to their children.*

Satire Project

- You may work in a group of up to 4
- Computer lab for research on Friday (23rd)
- Due Friday (30th)

Project Ideas

Project 1: "Weekend Update"

For this assignment you must choose a classmate to work with. It would be best if pairs are boy/girl. You must:

- Create an original satirical script that models *Saturday Night Live's* "Weekend Update" or John Stewart's *The Daily Show*. This skit may be NO less than 3 minutes and NO more than 6 minutes.
- You may give a live performance to the class OR you may tape your skit beforehand and it will be watched in class.
- A typed script must be handed in along with your presentation.

Project Ideas

Project 2: The "Satire Sun"

You have just landed a job at the local newspaper. You have a lot of passion for a particular topic and cannot wait to write your first article. You must:

- Write an article to be published in the newspaper that uses common satire techniques.
- Format your piece similarly to that of an actual newspaper article.
- Read your article to the class, identifying the situation you are satirizing and how you chose to do so.

Project Ideas

Project 3: Cartoon Craze

Do you love drawing? If so, your task includes:

- Create a satirical cartoon OR comic strip that is worthy of being published in a comic book or newspaper.
- You do not necessarily need to be a topnotch artist if you choose to do this project. You may use clipart or other graphic resources.
- Present the visual to the class on either a poster board or handouts and identify the situation you are satirizing and why you chose to do so.

Project Ideas

Project 4: Satirical Song

If you have a passion for music and songwriting this project is for you. You must:

- Write lyrics to an original satirical song. You may create the music to accompany your song OR use music from an existing song to compliment your lyrics.
- Either perform the song live to the class OR you may tape your song and it will be listened to in class.
- The lyrics must be handed in along with your presentation.

SATIRE PROJECT

- Who or what is the target of your satire?
- What is it about your subject that you would like people to reconsider?
- Who is your audience?
- What type of satire would be most effective for your audience (a story, a poem, a comic, a cartoon, a video, music)?
- What kinds of things might you be able to parody or caricature to mock your subject?



Satire in Fiction – Grade 12

Attachment C Satire Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Content	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Excellent subject knowledge. Satire is well thought out and is effective.	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good. Satire seems well thought out, and it works fairly well.	Includes essential information about the topic but there are factual errors. Satire is planned but awkward in places.	Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors. No attempt at satire.
Mechanics and writing style (for written project)	No misspellings or grammatical errors. Effective word choice and clear writing.	Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors. Word choice is good, and writing is mostly clear.	Four misspellings and/or grammatical errors. Some good word choice, but writing is mostly bland.	More than 4 errors in spelling or grammar. Ineffective writing style and poor word choice throughout.
Presentation (for multimedia project)	Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, layout, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation.	Makes good use of font, color, graphics, layout, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation.	Makes use of font, color, graphics, layout, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the presentation content.	Use of font, color, graphics, layout, effects etc. but these often distract from the presentation content.
Originality	Product shows a large amount of original thought. Ideas are creative and inventive.	Product shows some original thought. Work shows new ideas and insights.	Uses other people's ideas (giving them credit), but there is some evidence of original thinking.	Shows little or no evidence of original thought or documentation.