

## **A Modest Proposal**

**I. Read and discuss as a social issue**

**II. Analyze as satire**

### **Standard/Goal**

**Use Modest Proposal to provide textual evidence to support analysis**

**Understand and develop satire (literary elements and writing)**

### **Satire Pre Assessment**

Satire is a term that only applies to literature.

- A**     T  
       ru
- e
- B**     Fa  
       lse

2. Satire is often meant to be funny, but not always.

- A**     T  
       ru
- e
- B**     Fa  
       lse

3. Satire is a fairly recent development in society.

- A**     T  
       ru
- e
- B**     Fa  
       lse

4. How does satire attempt to improve individuals or society?

- A**     by modeling correct thought and
- behavior
- B**     by ridiculing flaws and
- follies
- C**     by praising achievements and
- honors
- D**     by explicitly explaining the difference between right and
- wrong

5. Which of the four strategies of satire refers to imitating another's technique or style?

- A exaggerati
- . on
- B rever
- . sal
- C incongru
- . ity
- D paro
- . dy

6. The movie *Shrek* employs this strategy of satire when the "valiant" knights desperately run away from the forest's ogre Shrek.

- A exaggerati
- . on
- B incongru
- . ity
- C rever
- . sal
- D paro
- . dy

7. In the fractured fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin", elements like "gossip pages, talk shows, and beefy security" are absurdly out of place in the standard fairy tale world. Therefore, they are examples of this strategy of satire.

- A exaggerati
- . on
- B incongru
- . ity
- C paro
- . dy
- D rever
- . sal

8. Jonathon Swift uses this strategy of satire in his essay "A Modest Proposal" when he takes his solution to poverty and hunger to its very extremes.

- A paro
- . dy
- B exaggerati
- . on
- C incongru
- . ity
- D rever
- . sal

Match each term with the best definition. (1 pt. each)

- A. When a person says the opposite of what is meant
- B. An imitation of something for comic effect or ridicule
- C. A drastic overstatement or exaggeration
- D. The appearance of things is the opposite of reality
- E. Lessening the importance of an event or moment
- F. The character thinks or does what the audience knows is not true
- G. Making fun of a serious issue in order to reform humanity
- H. Type of verbal irony intending to wound a persons feelings

\_\_\_\_ 9. Satire

\_\_\_\_ 10. Hyperbole

\_\_\_\_ 11. Dramatic Irony

\_\_\_\_ 12. Sarcasm

\_\_\_\_ 13. Verbal Irony

\_\_\_\_ 14. Understatement

\_\_\_\_ 15. Parody

\_\_\_\_ 16. Situational Irony

17-19. Name three rhetorical devices.

20. Where have you seen satire used?

# **READ A MODEST PROPOSAL Study**

## **Guide and Essay**

### **Modest Proposal Review/Discussion**

“A Modest Proposal” – Use your knowledge of the essay to answer the following questions.

1. What was the serious issue that Jonathan Swift was addressing?
2. What reform was Swift calling for in England and Ireland?
3. What is Swift’s proposal?
4. List the advantages Swift gives for his satirical solution.

# **A Modest Proposal Analysis**

Social Issue

Argument

Counterargument

Satirical Strategies

Rhetorical Devices

## **Satirical Strategies**

Hyperbole

Exaggeration

Understatement

Irony/Reversal  
Sarcasm  
Absurdity/Incongruity  
Parody/Mocking  
Imitation

## **Rhetorical Devices**

Ethos  
Pathos  
Logos

Explain the satire seen in the picture below.



### **Satire Assignment**

Locate a picture that reflects Satire.





What is the full title of "A Modest Proposal"?

- A** A Modest Proposal for Maximizing the Usefulness of the Poor Children of Ireland and for Providing a Means to Regulate the Economy
- B** A Modest Proposal for Feeding the Hungry, Clothing the Needy, Sheltering the Homeless, and Enriching the Poor People of Ireland
- C** A Modest Proposal for Improving the Living Standards in Ireland and for Relieving the Poor People in Ireland of Their Unwanted Children
- D** 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

2. Of the following, which is not one of the common options chosen by the children of Ireland?

- A** Become thieves
- B** Sell themselves to the Barbadoes
- C** Fight for the Pretender in Spain
- D** Become factory workers

3. How old did Swift recommended children be before they became a modest proposal?

- A** Two years
- B** One year
- C** Four years
- D** Six months

4. Of the 120,000 children annually born in Dublin at the time, how many did Swift suggest should be used for the modest proposal?

- A** 100,000
- B** 10,000
- C** 120,000
- D** 5,000

5. What was the ethnicity of the person who told the narrator that a young, healthy child is a most delicious, nourishing and wholesome food?

- A** Spanish
- B** American
- C** Italian
- D** English

6. During what time are the most Roman Catholic children born?

- A**     Nine months after  
        Christmas
- B**     Nine months after the first day of  
        autumn
- C**     Nine months after the first day of  
        spring
- D**     Nine months after  
        Lent

7. What did the narrator recommend as the selling price for a beggar's child?

- A**     One hundred  
        shillings
- B**     Ten  
        shillings
- C**     Twenty  
        shillings
- D**     Three  
        shillings

8. What did the narrator acknowledge as the strongest objection to his proposal?

- A**     It would be too difficult to implement if it was run by the  
        government.
- B**     It would create a more homogenous  
        Ireland.
- C**     It was a little bordering on  
        cruelty.
- D**     It would be looked down upon in other  
        countries.

9. Which of the following is listed as one of the benefits of the narrator's modest proposal?

- A**     People will not live in fear of being  
        robbed.
- B**     The price of other foods in Ireland will go  
        down.
- C**     The food will bring a great custom to taverns in  
        Ireland.
- D**     Sanitation in Ireland will be  
        improved.

10. Why did the narrator say that the modest proposal food should not bear exportation?

- A**     The people of Ireland could not afford the shipping  
        costs.
- B**     The flesh is too tender to admit a long continuance of  
        salt.
- C**     The smell of the food would be repulsive over a long  
        journey.
- D**     The people of Ireland did not want other nation's citizens eating their  
        children.