

Literary Elements of Satire

A series of horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, and white) extending from the left side of the slide towards the right, positioned below the title.

Satire

- A work that uses ridicule, humor, and wit to criticize and provoke change in human nature and institutions.
- Substitute Teacher

- Satire is always topical. That is, it is about something that the author feels needs to be exposed or denounced. It is often a painful, absurd or foolish person, group or situation.

The author tries to produce the unexpected by using one or more of the following:

Irony



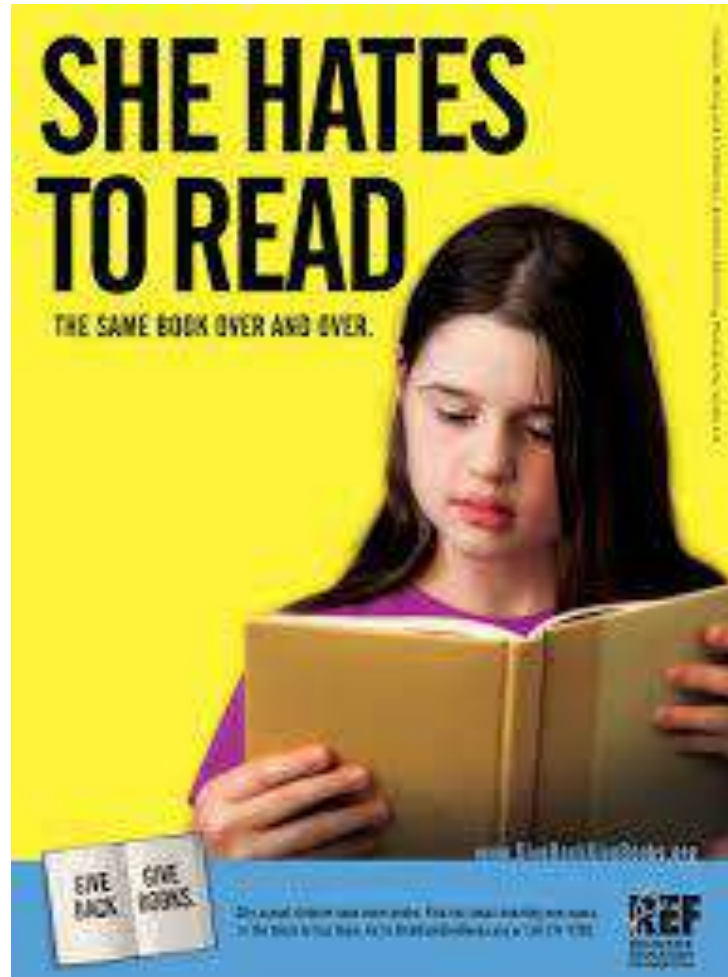
IRONY

A fine example.

Paradox (dilemma or puzzle)



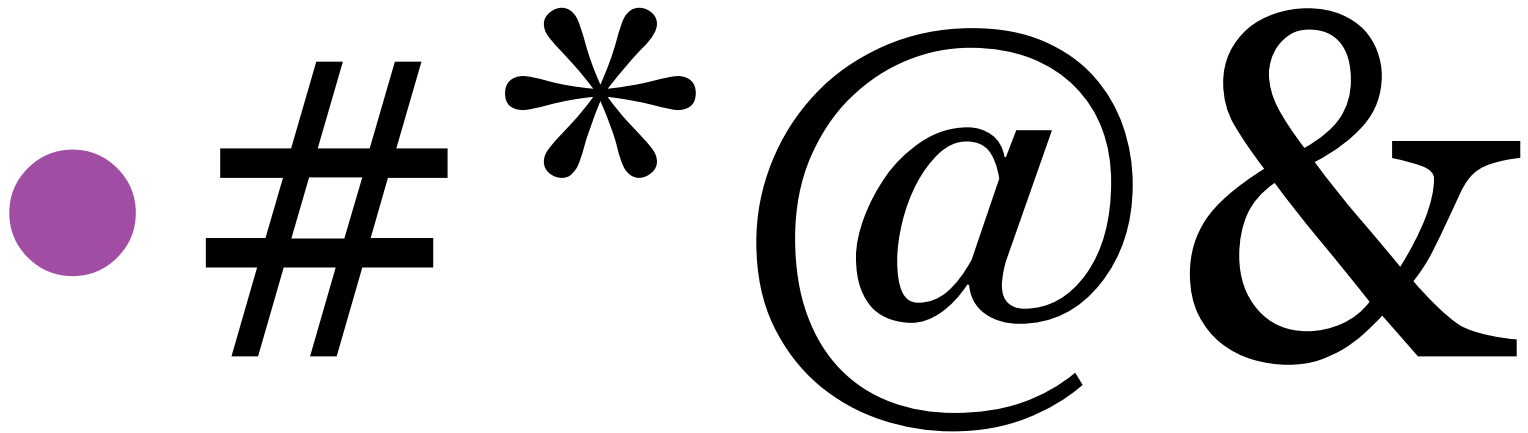
Antithesis (direct or opposite)



Parody (caricature)



Obscenity (objectionable language)



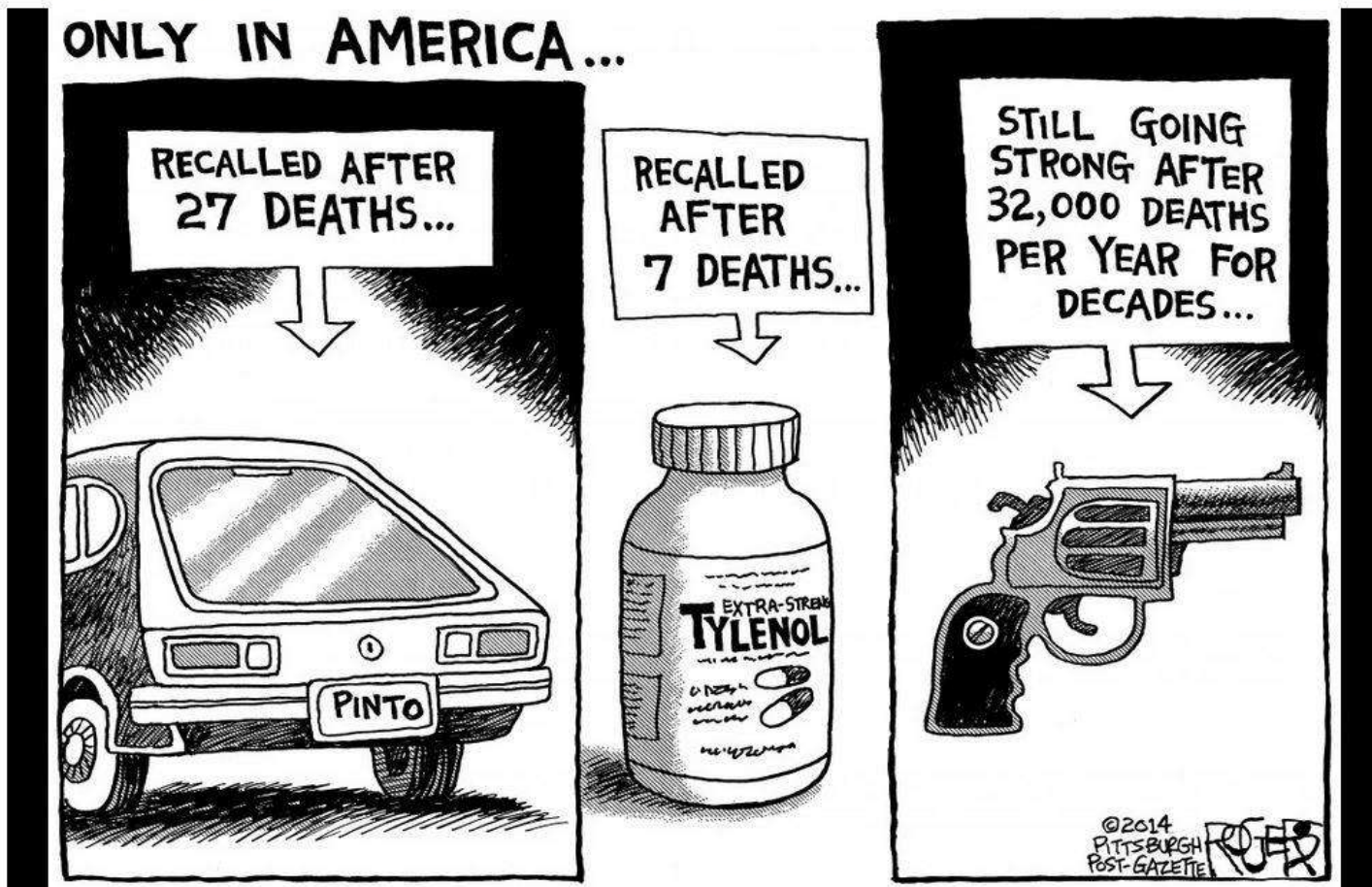
Violence (brutality)



Vividness (Clarity or intensity)

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Exaggeration (overstatement/Hyperboly)



Satire Review

- A topical exposure of something an author feels must be denounced. It is often a painful, absurd or foolish person, group or situation.

- The emotion felt by the author is a blend of **contempt** and **amusement**. In some works one almost completely outweighs the other.



However, it always contains some trace of laughter, however bitter.



- Horror, hate and fear without amusement will not make a satire, but a **diatribe** a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something, merely a denunciation.

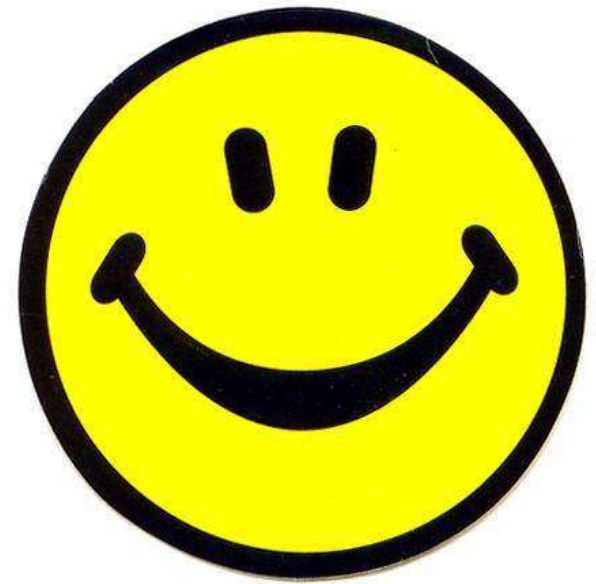


- It is not possible to write an effective satire about Hitler, cancer, or other real tragedies.



There are two kinds of satirists.

- One is an **optimist** who thinks people are blind and foolish and wishes to cure them.



The other is a
pessimist who
hates people
and wants to
punish them.



On Demand Writing

- Choose one piece of satire we reviewed this trimester to analyze.
- Explain how this piece meets the definition of satire by examining the topic and elements of the archetypes.
- In your opinion, is the satirist of this piece an optimist or a pessimist? Explain your answer.

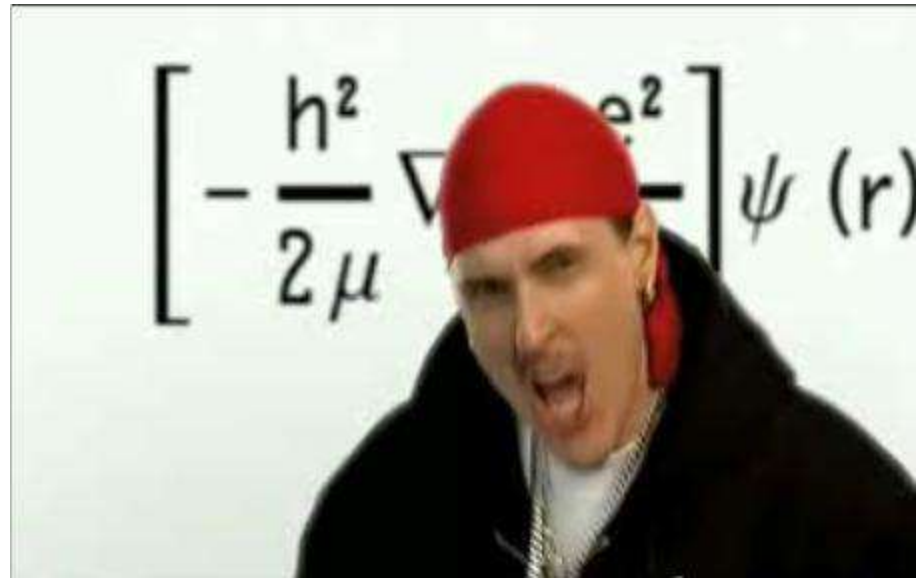
Satire can take various forms:

- Monologue – This is just one speaker, speaking directly to the audience, usually in the form of an essay.
- “A Modest Proposal”
by Jonathan Swift
is an example of this form.



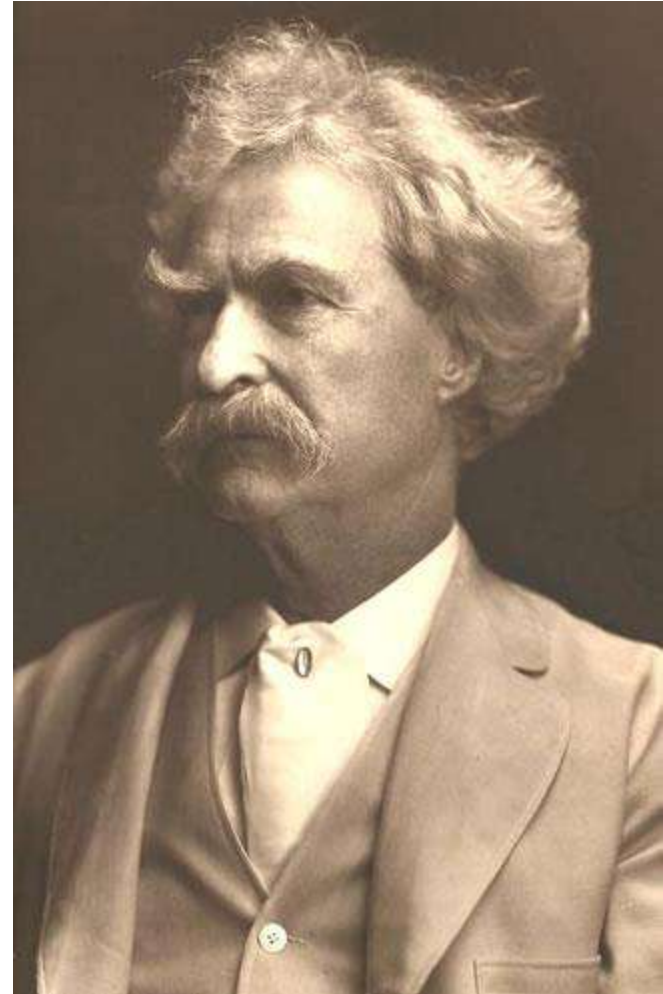
Satire can take various forms:

- Parody – This is an imitation which uses distortion and exaggeration to evoke amusement or derision. It groups extremes to make them absurd.
- Weird Al does parodies of popular songs.



Satire can take various forms:

- Narrative - This is a story that leaves a bitter aftertaste with the reader, with the intended purpose of change, like Mark Twain's "War Prayer."

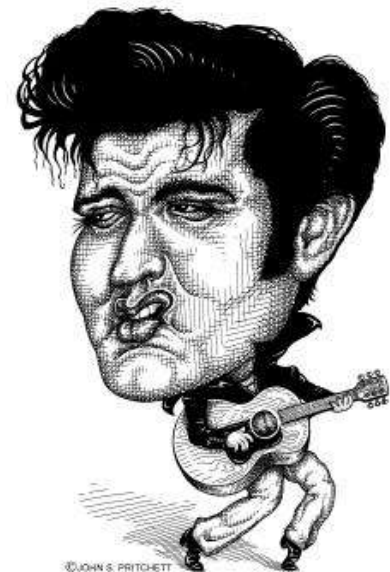
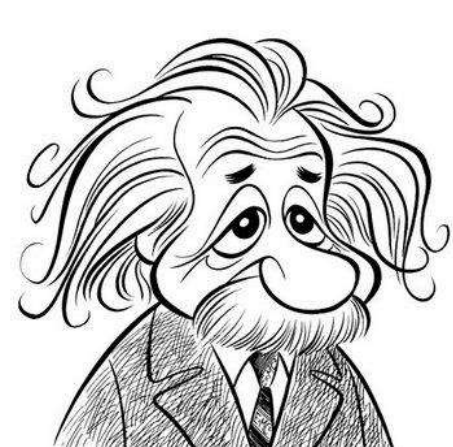


Satire wishes to expose, criticize and shame human life.

- This is often done by introducing a strange land or foreign world, or our own world in the future.
- **1984** and ***Animal Farm*** by George Orwell, ***Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley and ***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury are all examples of this form.

Satire can take various forms:

- Visual Art – Political cartoons and caricatures are examples of this form.
- In caricatures the subject is made to look ridiculous by emphasizing certain important or noticeable features.



Think about Blaine High School...

- Create an original visual satire about something that should be changed here at Blaine.
- Remember:
 - Optimist or Pessimist
 - Utilize elements
 - Make an attempt at humor