

Introduction to Satire

AP English Language & Composition

The rumors are true.
You need your LC book today!



Sorry for the late notice.
You may go and retrieve your book from your locker 😊

Satire

- * Though we laugh, the satirist tells the truth through laughter
- * Compels readers to look at something they missed or shunned - move them to protest
- * Through laughter, aims to cure folly and punish evil

Types of Satire

- * Horatian: gentle, sympathetic form of satire. Mildly mocks the subject. The audience is asked to laugh at themselves as much as the players.

Horatian Satire



the ONION
America's Finest News Source



Types of Satire

- * Juvenalian/juvenile: harsh and bitter satire

Juvenalian Satire



Two Types of Satirists

* Optimist

- Likes people, but thinks they are rather blind and foolish
- Tells the truth with a smile
- Cures people of their ignorance
- Writes in order to heal

Two Types of Satirists

* Pessimist

- Loves individuals, hates mankind
- Aim is to wound, to punish, to destroy
- Juvenalian satire
- [The Onion](#)

Forms of Satire

* Diatribe, Invective:

- Direct attack
- Stated without irony or sarcasm
- Do not have to figure out what the satirist is trying to say
- Dennis Miller, Chris Rock, George Carlin

Forms of Satire

* Caricature, Exaggeration:

- Distortion for emphasis
- Usually focuses on powerful subjects
- Emphasize physical characteristics in order to make deeper criticism



Parody

* Imitation which, through distortion and exaggeration, evokes amusement, derision, and sometimes scorn

* Borrows a pre-existing form

* *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*



Types of Parody

- * Burlesque:
 - Vulgar
 - Treats subject with ridicule, vulgarity, distortion, and contempt
 - “Dear companions hug and kiss,
Toast old Glorious in your piss”
-- Jonathan Swift on the Irish Parliament

Types of Parody

- * Mock-heroic
 - “Like a laughing child wearing a full-scale suit of majestic armor”
 - Grand diction, lofty style
 - Takes a trivial or repellent theme and treats it with grandeur or feigned solemnity
 - The Onion Headline: “Loser Spends Entire Day in Bed”

“Shooting an Elephant”

- * Read this essay by George Orwell on p. 979 of your LC textbook
- * Annotate the piece for techniques of satire (use your notes from today)
- * Take note of what the target(s) of Orwell’s satire appear to be