

# Satire





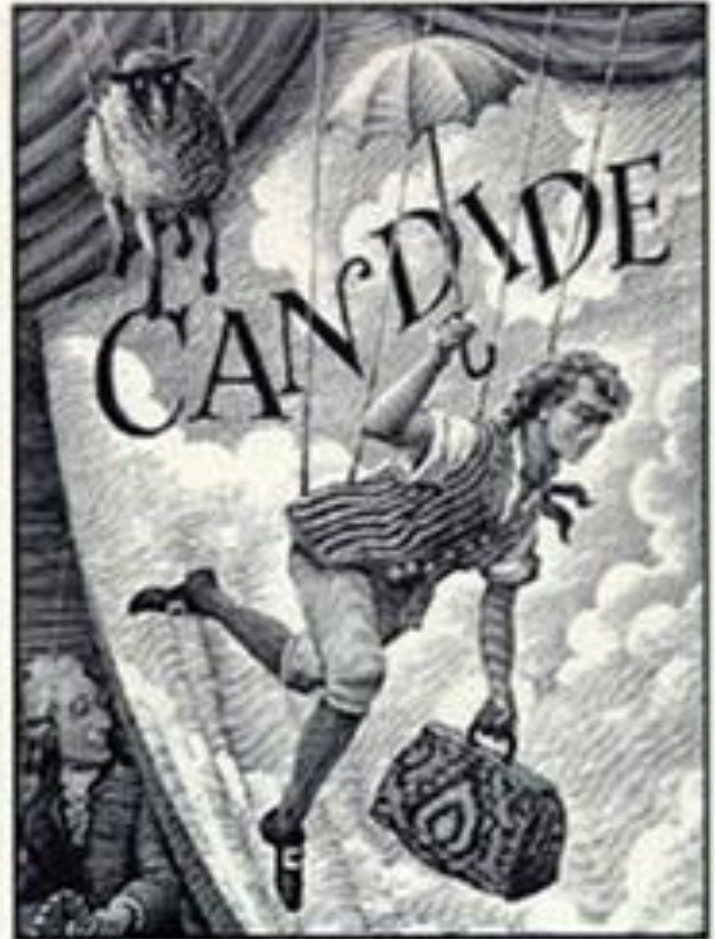
**SATIRE** : "first make people laugh,  
and then make them think"

From Latin **satura** "mixture"

**"The use of ridicule,  
irony, sarcasm, etc.,  
to expose folly or  
vice or to lampoon  
an individual"** – Oxford  
English Reference Dictionary

-satire seeks to correct  
vices and follies

and to improve a  
person or practice



# Characteristics of Satire

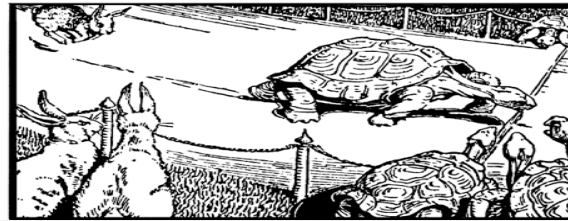
- o Satire whether gentle or vicious always attacks
- o The way it attacks and what it attacks differ
  - o it may attack evil and conventional respectabilities
  - o May attack foolishness or hypocrisy - convinced that it makes sense
  - o It is often implicit and assumes readers can pick up on its moral clues. It is not a sermon.



# Fables

- o Fables are **short stories** which illustrate a particular moral and teach a lesson to children and kids.
- o The theme and characters appeal to children and the stories are **often humorous and entertaining** for kids of all ages.
- o Fables can also be described as tales or yarns which have a message in their narrative such as a parable might have.
- o Fables can often **pass into our culture as myths and legends** and used to teach about morals to children and kids.

# Aesop Fables



- o Aesop's fables were first printed in English by William Caxton in 1484, from his own translation made from the French.
- o Aesop's fables were not believed to have been written as Children's literature and the book of fables were originally used to make thinly disguised social and political criticisms.



# The Eagle and the Fox

An eagle and a Fox formed an intimate friendship and decided to live near each other. The Eagle built her nest in the branches of a tall tree, while the Fox crept into the underwood and there produced her young. Not long after they had agreed upon this plan, the Eagle, being in want of provision for her young ones, swooped down while the Fox was out, seized upon one of the little cubs, and feasted herself and her brood.

The fox on her return, discovered what had happened, but was less grieved for the death of her young than for her inability to avenge them. A just retribution, however, quickly fell upon the Eagle. While hovering near an altar, on which some villagers were sacrificing a goat, she suddenly seized a piece of the flesh, and carried it, along with a burning cinder, to her nest. A strong breeze soon fanned the spark into a flame and the eaglets, as yet unfledged and helpless, were roasted in their nest and dropped down dead at the bottom of the tree. There, in the sight of the Eagle, the Fox gobbled them up.



# What is the difference between comedy and satire?





# Horatian Satire

- Gently mocking satire often told in a voice of a witty and tolerant person who is more likely to be wryly amused by folly, pretentiousness or hypocrisy rather than indignant
- Often uses relaxed or informal language in order to amuse readers
- This form of satire tends to ask the audience to laugh at themselves as much as the players



# Juvenalian Satire

- o The speaker is a serious moralist who uses dignified and public style to decry modes of vice and error
  - o Tone can be narrow minded and reactionary
  - o Voices sees danger rather than folly
  - o Attempts to evoke from readers contempt, moral indignation at the aberrations of humanity
  - o Attacking social norms, political corruption, double standards, moral hypocrisy



*A Modest Proposal*  
*Nineteen Eighty-Four*  
*Catch 22*  
*Animal Farm*



# How is Satire created?

- **Comedy of Character: (or stock character)** is one which relies heavily on cultural *types* or *names* for their personality, manner of speech, and other characteristics. In their most general form, stock characters are related to literary archetypes, but they are often more narrowly defined. Stock characters make easy targets for parody, which will likely exaggerate any stereotypes associated with these characters.

# Satirical Devices

- **Hyperbole:** something that does happen, but is exaggerated to absurd lengths so that the ridiculous and its faults can be seen. This is the most common type of satire. For example, a caricature.
- **Incongruity:** something that seems like it would never happen, but could. To present things that are out of place or are absurd in their surroundings.
- **Irony (or reversal):** conveying the opposite of what is expected (e.g., the order of events, hierarchical order).



# Satirical Devices -continued

- **Deadpan:** is a form of non-comedic delivery in which humor is presented without a change in emotion or facial expression, usually speaking in a monotone manner.
- **Euphemism:** the substitution of an inoffensive term for one that is offensive. For example, replacing “die” with “pass away”.

# Satirical Devices-Continued

- **Verbal humor:** play on words using puns, innuendo/double entendres, extended/running gags, shaggy-dog stories (a long rambling story filled with irrelevant detail and repeated phrases, which has an absurd anti-climatic punch line. It leads its listeners on in the expectation there will be an ending to make sense of all they've heard. Often there isn't or there will be a really weak pun. Its pointlessness is the joke!), or statement of the obvious.



# A Modest Proposal



# Jonathon Swift

- o Jonathan Swift was born on 30 November 1667 in Dublin, Ireland and died in 1745
- o The son of Protestant Anglo-Irish parents Abigail Erick [Herrick] (c1642-1710) and Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) an attorney who died seven months before his son was born.
- o Author of *Gulliver's Travels*, known as the great Prose Satirist of the English Language



# Swift's Early Years

- o Young Jonathan was a sickly child, and it is said he later developed Meniere's Disease
- o . After his father died, Jonathan's mother was left without an income and she and his nurse did their best to provide care for him. But his mother was extremely poor so when his nurse travelled to England to see relatives she took Jonathan with her.

- o He later went back to Ireland to live with his paternal uncle Godwin Swift Esq. (1627-1695) who would support him and provide him with the best education possible
- o He was a scholar, a diplomat and a priest of the Church of England
- o 1710-1714 he enjoyed eminence and power as a writer whose political pamphlets did much to keep the Tories in office



# His Tombstone Reads:

He had gone where savage indignation can tear his heart no more.

