

AP English Plans-week of April 15-21

This week we are focused on satire. This is not a new concept to you, but we will look at satirical works through a rhetorical lens. As you read the satire, don't just focus on the humor or ridicule; consider why the writer chose satire as the format of the text. Think about the rhetorical situation--considering purpose and audience, why does satire work in the text? You know from your rhetorical terms that satire is a form of writing that holds some societal convention up to ridicule. Satire is sarcasm with a purpose. *Animal Farm* was a satirical novel--the fact that the government leaders were pigs is humorously critical. While I don't think the College Board would make this year's rhetorical analysis a satirical text, they have used satire in the past. So, I still want us to spend this week focused on satire and its purpose.

Wednesday--read the article from The Onion titled "Industrial Revolution Provides Millions of Out of Work Children with Jobs."

<https://www.theonion.com/industrial-revolution-provides-millions-of-out-of-work-1819571223>

The article focuses on the exploitation of children for the benefit of adults, the loss of childhood innocence, and harsh conditions for children. Write one paragraph analyzing what makes the text satirical (use specific evidence) and why the writer chose satire for this serious topic. What is the point of satire? Why not just present the problem and the solution in a realistic way? Why not just directly present an issue? What does satire accomplish? Email me your response or post on teams.

Thursday--Read the article from The Onion titled "'No Way to Prevent This' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens" and complete a SPACECAT analysis of the article.

<https://www.theonion.com/no-way-to-prevent-this-says-only-nation-where-this-r-1836949715>

Post your SPACECAT to Teams or email it to me.

Friday and Monday--Read Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal." This is probably the most famous work of satire. It is old and the writing reflects that, but try to get past the archaic language to appreciate Swift's snark; Irish aristocrats at the time of its publication did not understand it was satire and thought Swift was truly advocating for cannibalism. Much like the article linked earlier from The Onion, his subject is the exploitation of children and the working class. He claims to have a "modest proposal" of cooking and eating poor babies to rid the world of the burden.

Read the article, then write a paragraph analyzing his use of satire. Discuss the article's effectiveness in drawing attention to the issue, discuss some of Swift's satirical quotes (provide textual evidence), and explain how he wrote this in a way that seemed absolutely believable for something so outlandish. What is the point of satire? Why not just present the problem and the solution in a realistic way? Why not just directly present an issue? What does satire accomplish? Email me your response or post on teams.

Tuesday--As a culmination for the week on satire, respond to the rhetorical analysis prompt in AP Classroom titled Satire Rhetorical Analysis. Submit your analysis, then I will provide

feedback. There are other satirical prompts for rhetorical analysis, so let me know if you want me to provide them for extra practice.

I know we would have some interesting discussions on satire in class, so I hope we can still have lively banter even if it is over a computer. After this week, we will focus more on rhetoric before 1900--get excited :)

After yesterday's announcement from the governor that schools are closed the rest of this year, I am heartbroken I will not have you guys in a physical class again. Teaching you guys has been a delight. Email or send a remind if you need anything.

Ruff :)