

Literary Analysis

SATIRE

While Alexander Pope is generally sympathetic to his satirical targets, Swift’s work is darker and more biting. **Satire** is a literary technique in which people’s behaviors or society’s institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of bringing about social reform. Swift uses satire to comment on specific political and cultural concerns that angered and offended him.

One of the satirist’s most reliable tools is **verbal irony**, which occurs when what is said is the opposite of what is meant.

**Directions:** In the chart, record examples of verbal irony that Swift uses in *A Modest Proposal*. One has been done for you.

What Swift States	What Swift Means
The title of the selection, “A Modest Proposal”	Swift’s proposal is hardly modest; it is outrageous and likely to cause horror in readers