

Reading Check

Directions: Recall the ideas presented in Swift’s satirical essay. Then answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. According to Swift’s essay, why do many women in Ireland become beggars?

2. How does Swift propose to make children “sound, useful members of the commonwealth”?

3. What reason does Swift give for not aiming his proposal at teenagers or the elderly?

4. Swift lists several alternative proposals that are based on common sense, fairness and decency. What reasons does Swift give for refusing to discuss these alternatives?

5. Swift challenges politicians who dislike his proposal to ask the poor how they feel about it. What does Swift suggest the poor would say?
