

# SATIRE

**Satire** is a literary work that ridicules its subject through the use of techniques such as exaggeration, reversal, incongruity, and/or parody in order to make a comment or criticism.

## Characteristics of Satire

- Criticism! It must contain either general criticism of humanity / human nature or specific criticism of an individual or group. Satire is concerned with ethical reform.
- It works to make vice laughable and/or reprehensible and thus bring social pressure on those who still engage in wrongdoing.
- It seeks a reform in public behavior
- Satire is often implicit and assumes readers can pick up on its moral clues.
- Satire usually attacks types or stereotypes -- the fool, the boor, the adulterer, the proud -- rather than specific persons.
- If it does attack some by name, rather than hoping to reform these persons, it seeks to warn the public against approving of them.
- Satire uses humor. It is witty, ironic, and often exaggerated.
- Some kind of moral voice: simply mocking or criticizing is not "satire."

## "Teenage Affluenza"

- Affluent = wealthy, prosperous, born with a silver spoon in your mouth

Satirical Details	Social Comment

## Four techniques of satire:

- **Exaggeration**
  - to enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous, and its faults can be seen.
  - the portrayal of something trivial or unimportant as very important, usually to emphasize its triviality
- **Incongruity**
  - to present things that are out of place or are absurd in relation to its surroundings
  - can also relate to humor that sets up a person to expect one type of outcome, and is surprised by a completely different outcome
  - Cartoons without captions often rely on incongruity (visual puns) to be humorous.
- **Reversal**
  - to present the opposite of the normal order (the order of events, gender roles)
  - or to present the opposite of what the author actually wants to happen in order to make a point
- **Parody**
  - To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing.
  - Parody is a literary or artistic work that imitates the characteristic style of another work itself, the subject of the work, or the author of the work in order to ridicule, ironically comment on, or poke some affectionate fun at.

Find examples of each type of SATIRE in the *Shrek* clip.

<b>Example</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Technique</b>
Shrek		exaggeration
Shrek		incongruity
Shrek		reversal
Shrek		parody
What is being satirized?		

Satire in music...“Don’t Download this Song”

<b>Satirical Details</b>	<b>Social Comment</b>

<b>Dove Campaign Message</b>
<b>Slob Evolution Message</b>

Now, let's look at SATIRE in cartoons.

- First, look at the satirical details.
  - Characters: clothing, race, features, sex
  - Setting: time of day, location, season, signs/posters
  - Dialogue: what is being said versus what is being implied/tone of voice
- Second, try to determine the social comment the artist is trying to make.

<b>Example</b>	<b>Satirical Details</b>	<b>Social Comment</b>
Cartoon #1		
Cartoon #2		
Cartoon #3		
Cartoon #4		
Cartoon #5		
Cartoon #6		
Cartoon #7		
Cartoon #8		
Cartoon #9		
Cartoon #10		

