

Understanding Satire

**Humor For The Intelligent
Sort...Will you get it?**

Satire Defined

- **One of the oldest forms of literature and one of the most durable**
- **A constructive art that seeks not merely to destroy but to rebuild; aim is to inspire reform**
 - **humor + criticism = inspired reform**

Satire Defined

- **Actually very conservative**
- **Cherishes a sound society, good traditions, and wise, viable institutions**
- **Values the general welfare and the public good**
- **Audience is reasonably intelligent, educated and rational**
 - **No point in appealing to fools, they won't get it**

Satire Versus Sarcasm

Satire – blend of criticism and humor for the purposes of **CORRECTION OR IMPROVEMENT**

Sarcasm – simple abuse consisting of a series of insults

Three **Golden** Satire Questions

- 1. What institutions, practices, and/or groups are being satirized?**
- 2. What method(s) does the author employ in constructing his satire?**
- 3. What is the tone of the satire?**

What institutions, practices, and/or groups are being satirized?

- 1. A group or organization**
- 2. Individuals**
- 3. A “sort” or type of person**
- 4. A social class**
- 5. A prevailing philosophy**
- 6. Social manners**
- 7. Mordern progress**
- 8. Mankind**

What method(s) does the author employ in constructing his satire?

- **Parody**
- **Burlesque**
- **Irony**
- **Lampoon**
- **Mock-epic**
- **Caricature**
- **Travesty**
- **Epigram**
- **Allegory**
- **Fable**

What is the **tone** of the satire?

- **Horatian** – this form aims to correct through broad laughter
 - **cheerful**
 - **urbane**
 - **tongue-in-cheek**
 - **optimistic**
 - **warm**
 - **witty**
 - **gentle**
 - **chiding**

What is the **tone** of the satire?

- **Juvenalian** – this form aims to reforms through mocking ridicule
 - **cutting**
 - **bitter**
 - **angry**
 - **contemptuous**
 - **grim**
 - **sardonic**
 - **harsh**
 - **indignant**

Satire and POV

- Often employs a special kind of narrator called a *mask* or *persona*
 - This is the character through whom the action is observed or related
 - **NOT NORMALLY TO BE CONSTRUED AS THE AUTHOR'S VOICE**
 - Often has the presence of a character that serves as the “norm” or the standard against which we measure the other characters

Satire and POV

Formal & Direct

- Satiric voice speaks in first person

Informal & Indirect

- Characters themselves reveal their folly & ridiculousness through their own actions, words and thoughts

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“Sports Unable To Heal Small Town Following Tragedy”

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