

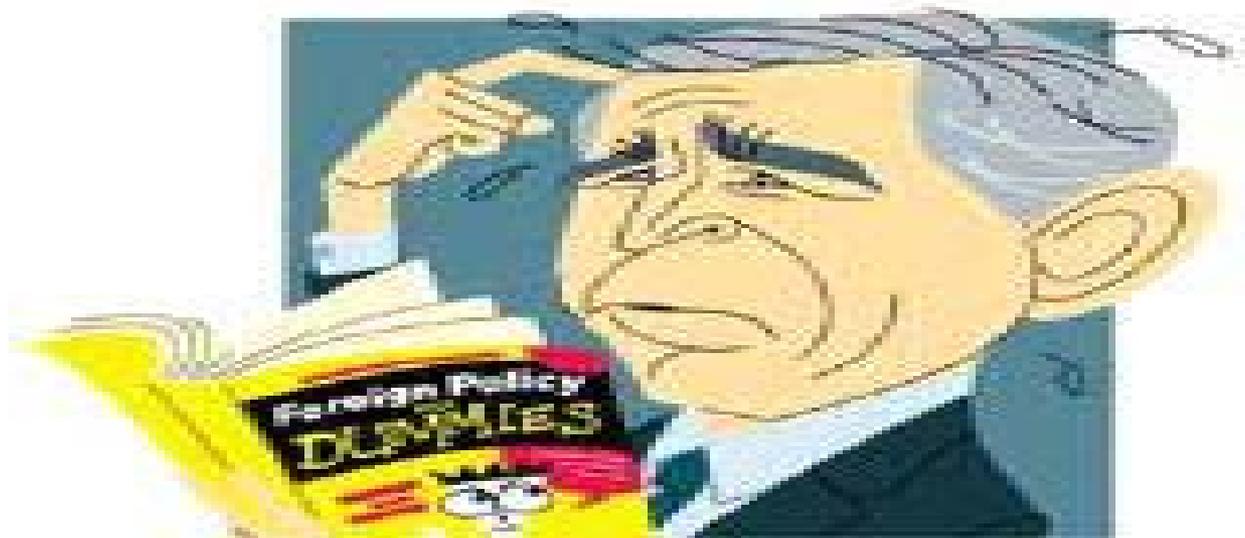
A dark space background featuring a large, dark planet on the left side and a smaller, dark planet in the upper right corner. The background is filled with numerous small, white stars.

Lesson Satire

English Language

Satire:

- **Satire**--Literary art of diminishing a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking toward it attitudes of amusement, contempt, scorn or indignation. Takes its form from the genre it spoofs.



Satire: Horatian

- **Horatian satire**--After the Roman satirist Horace: Satire in which the voice is indulgent, tolerant, amused, and witty. The speaker holds up to gentle ridicule the absurdities and follies of human beings, aiming at producing in the reader not the anger of a Juvenal, but a wry smile.



Satire: Juvenalian

- **Juvenalian satire**--After the Roman satirist Juvenal: Formal satire in which the speaker attacks vice and error with contempt and indignation Juvenalian satire in its realism and its harshness is in strong contrast to Horatian satire.



Satire: Burlesque

- **Burlesque**-- A form of comedy characterized by ridiculous exaggeration and distortion. A serious subject may be treated frivolously or a frivolous subject seriously. The essential quality that makes for burlesque is the discrepancy between subject matter and style. That is, a style ordinarily dignified may be used for nonsensical matter, or a style very nonsensical may be used to ridicule a weighty subject.

Examples: Family Guy/South Park/Saturday Night Live



Satire: Parody

- **Parody**--A composition that imitates the serious manner and characteristic features of a particular work, or the distinctive style of its maker, and applies the imitation to a lowly or comically inappropriate subject. Often a parody is more powerful in its influence on affairs of current importance--politics for instance--than its original composition. It is a variety of burlesque.

Ex. **Scary Movie/Epic Movie**

Satire Continued...

- **Satiric Object**—The writer points to the bits and pieces of his society or the world which has bothered him into writing his work.
- **Speaker**—The author dominates his work in the following ways:
 - a. Pretends to be the innocent victim of fools or knaves.
 - b. Pretends to be the enraged defender of public morality.
 - c. Pretends to be the wholly disengaged "good man" who can tell the world where it errs and where it does not err; he is not caught up in its struggles.
- **Satiric Methods** **Verbal Irony**: A figure of speech in which the actual intent is expressed in words which carry the opposite meaning. **Sarcastic**=harsh, **facetious**=humorous, playful.

Satirical Devices: Methods

- **Satirical devices (methods of distortion) include:**
- ***absurdity**--an idea taken to its logical extreme (e.g., a baby dies of cleanliness).
- ***exaggeration (Hyperbole)**--making things larger or smaller than they really are (e.g., caricature in political cartoons: hyperbole or exaggerated language in melodrama).
- ***understatement**--saying less than is meant ("he's no amateur" [he's a pro]).

Satirical Methods Cont...

- ***parody--any intentional mockery, like changing a well-known piece of literature.**
- ***wit or word play--concentrated language (e.g., puns and limericks: What do you get when you cross a cow and a duck? MILK AND QUACKERS).**
- ***euphemism--a nice way to talk about unpleasant things, often by using particular words (e.g., halitosis = bad breath; slumber room = morgue: passed away=died).**
- ***irony--the tension between what one expects and what actually happens (e.g., an Olympic swimmer drowns in a bathtub).**

Satirical Methods

- **+Euphuism:** Affected style of writing. Chief characteristics are balanced construction, often antithetical and combined with alliteration; excessive use of the rhetorical question; a heaping up of similes, illustrations, and examples.
- **+Innuendo:** An insinuation or indirect suggestion, often with harmful or sinister connotation.
- **+Invective:** Harsh, abusive language directed against a person or cause.
- **+Sarcasm:** A form of verbal irony, in which, under the guise of praise, a caustic and bitter expression of strong and personal disapproval is given. Sarcasm is a personal jeering, intended to hurt and is intended as a sneering taunt.