



ELA Virtual Learning

AP Lang and Comp:
Satire

May 11, 2020



AP Lang and Comp Lesson: May 11, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

To develop an understanding of satire, students will:

- Become familiar with the underlying concepts behind satire
- Analyze the interaction between satire and current events

Background Information:

Satire is a technique employed by writers to expose and criticize foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society, by using humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule. It intends to improve humanity by criticizing its follies and foibles. A writer in a satire uses fictional characters, which stand for real people, to expose and condemn their corruption.

A writer may point a satire toward a person, a country, or even the entire world. Usually, a satire is a comical piece of writing which makes fun of an individual or a society, to expose its stupidity and shortcomings. In addition, he hopes that those he criticizes will improve their characters by overcoming their weaknesses.

Before you begin...

Satire is categorized into three different titles. Familiarize yourself with the definitions.

Horatian: Horatian satire is comic and offers light social commentary. It is meant to poke fun at a person or situation in an entertaining way.

Juvenalian: Juvenalian satire is dark, rather than comedic. It is meant to speak truth to power.

Menippean: Menippean satire casts moral judgment on a particular belief.

Warm-Up Activity:

Connect the following literary terms with their example:

- Hyperbole
- Colloquialism
- Metaphor
- Pun
- Irony
- Stereotype



"...There's a lid for every pot"

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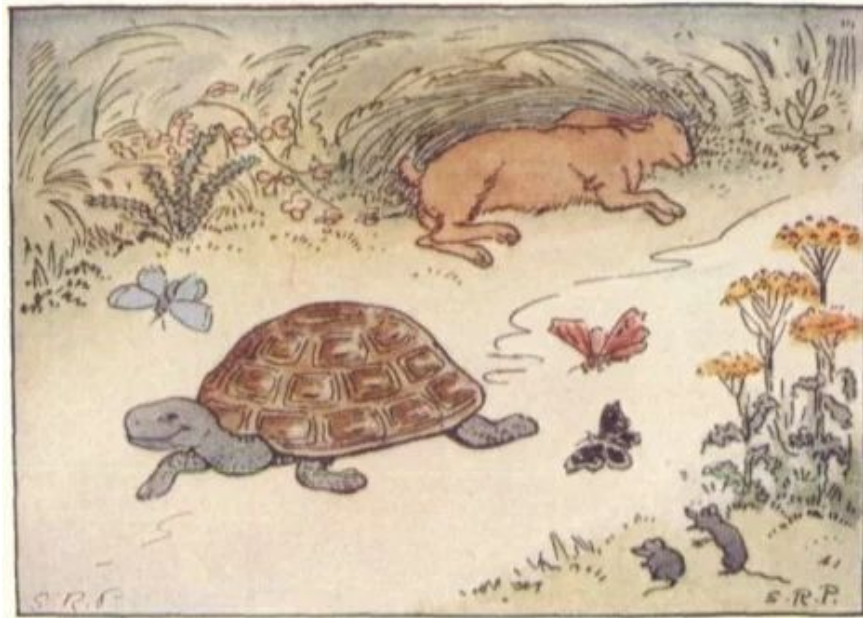
"...There's a lid for every pot"

Lesson:

- Today, you will be reviewing satirical terms, their definitions, and examples.
- As you move through the slides, take notes over each term.
- As you complete each slide, create or find a separate example for each term based on what you have learned or know.

Allegory

A narrative with a literal and a symbolic meaning within a text. By using this, writers can disguise their satirical target as a character.



THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

The hidden meaning, or moral, here is that some people are born with natural talents but waste them to idleness or laziness. The tortoise's character is meant to show how despite natural talents, perseverance, hard work, and focus can win the day.

Ambiguity

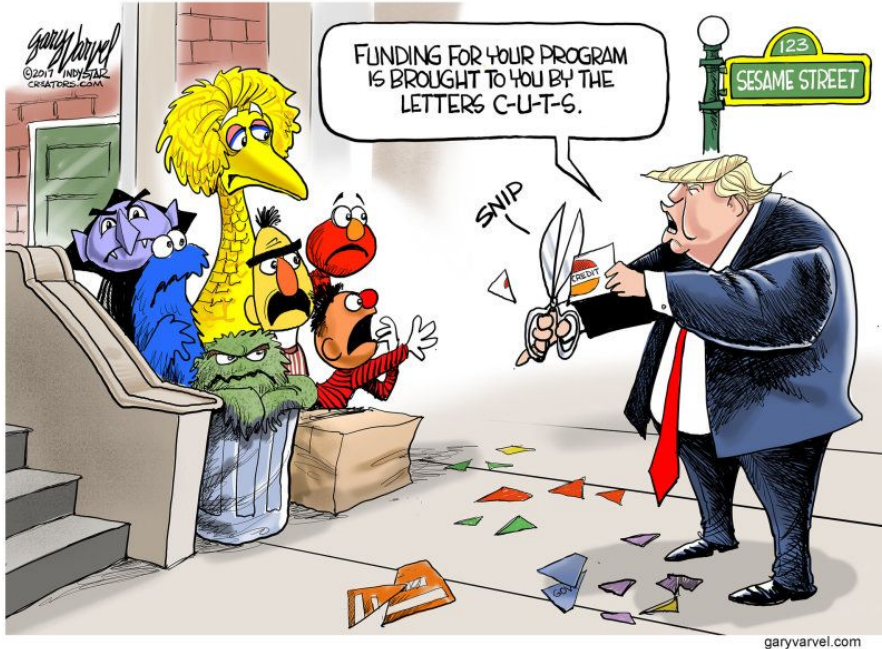
Inherent in most of the satirical techniques. This is simply when the meaning of something is unclear and it may mean more than one thing.



This cartoon shows a man calling to a female and asking her to call him a cab. She responds by calling him "a cab." Obviously, he is trying to hail a taxicab but the woman is unsure about what he is asking.

Caricature

The exaggeration of a physical feature or trait. Political cartoons are a good example of this.



This cartoon of Donald Trump cutting funding for PBS highlights his body posture and the way he presents himself.

Diminution

Taking a real-life situation and reducing it to make it ridiculous and showcase its faults. This is also reduction.

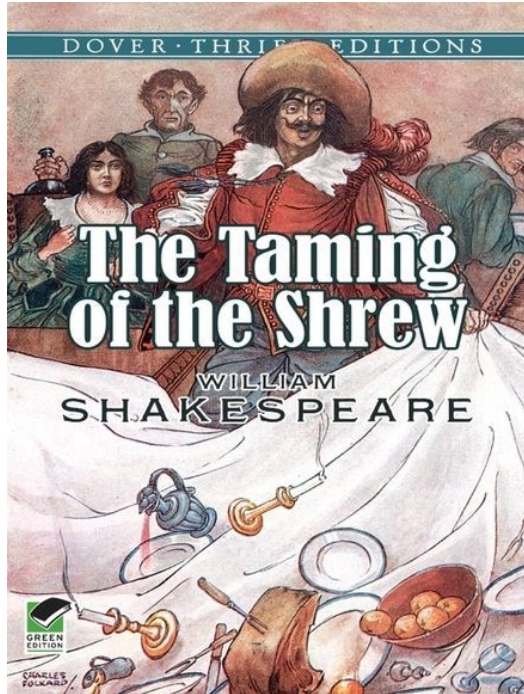
States soften standards for high school diplomas...



This cartoon is an example of a diminution as it takes an “exit exam” for graduates who obviously are struggling and letting them redo it and redo it until they get it right. This doesn’t set them up for success and ridicules the prompt.

Farce

This is when a narrative in which the ridiculous characters in the situation are exaggerated and the outcomes of the plot are absurd. It is essentially a comedy.



The Taming of the Shrew is a farce as it takes the situation of arranged marriage and exaggerates the plot of how it happens. It is one of Shakespeare's most comedic plays.

Remember:

As you move through the slides, take notes over each term.

- As you complete each slide, create or find a separate example for each term based on what you have learned or know.

Hyperbole

To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen.

podiatry hyperbole



"My feet are killing me!"

This cartoon is an example of a hyperbole because the quote is really saying that the feet are hurting but the speaker is using an exaggeration that the feet are actually killing him.

Incongruity

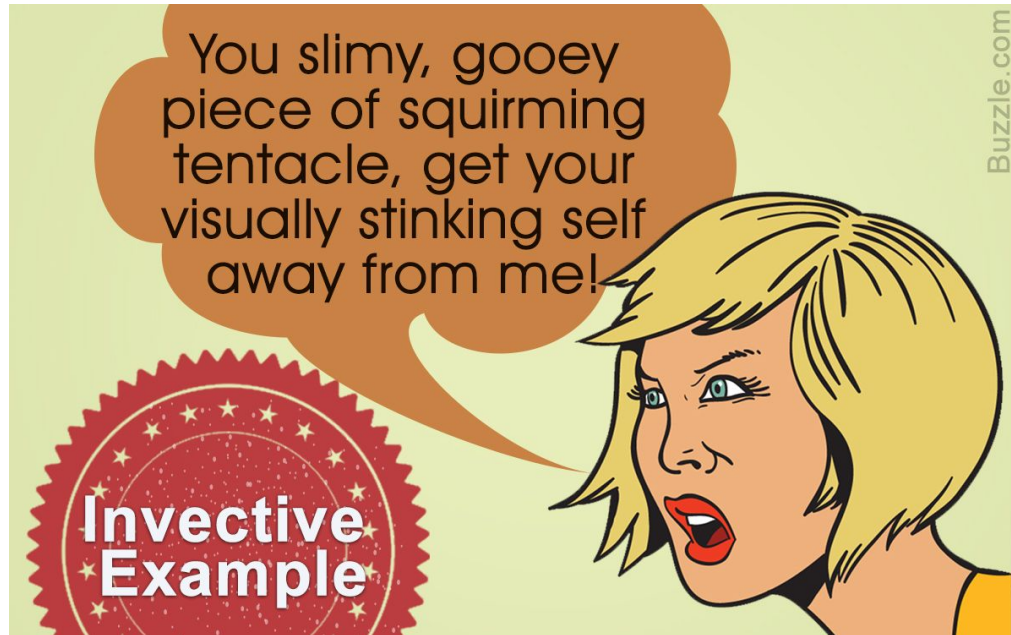
To present things that are out of place or absurd in relation to their surroundings. Particular techniques include oxymoron, metaphor, and irony.



This advertisement for Chick-fil-A takes a cow to advertise a break from the common fast food practice of eating hamburgers. It advises to “take a vacation” so that you can experience chicken.

Invective

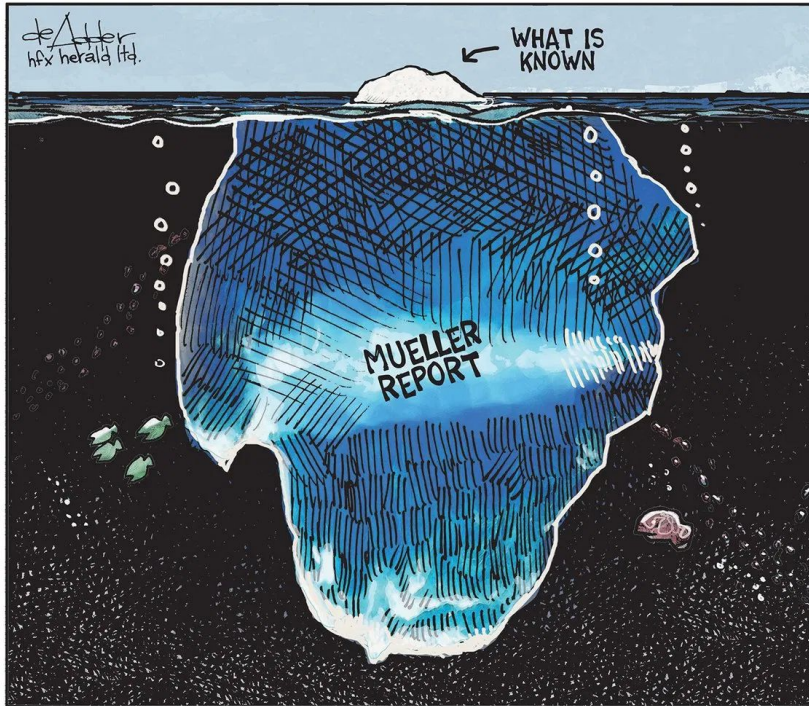
A direct insult. This is used in satire as a way of directly attacking the person who is being satirized.



This cartoon shows an attack on a character and the woman is yelling for the other person to stay far away with insults.

Knaves and Fools

These clowns of satire are exaggerations of our follies. Taken to the extreme, their ridiculous behavior still rings true, and we see in them something of ourselves. These are elements of farce.



This cartoon shows an example of invective by taking a common example of how people only see the tip of the iceberg and what is hidden underneath. As in the Mueller Report, only limited information was shared.

Parody

To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing, mimicking the techniques and/or style in order to ridicule the original. For this to be successful, the reader must know the original text that is being ridiculed.



Weird Al Yankovic is one of the most famous artists who parodies the original work of artists for humorous intent. One of his most famous works, Amish Paradise, is widely known.

Understatement

The opposite of hyperbole. By contrast, it draws attention to the truth.



In Monty Python's *Quest for the Holy Grail*, King Arthur encounters The Black Knight who he mortally wounds but the knight insists that it "tis a flesh wound."

Further Practice:

- These are just a few of the terms associated with satire. Part of understanding satire is also seeing it visually. The following video is from the Oregon State University - School of Writing, Literature and Film, and shows the definition of satire, the types of satire, and everything involved.

["What is Satire?": A Literary Guide for English Students and Teachers](#)