



ELA Virtual Learning

AP Lang and Comp:
Satire

May 12, 2020



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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:

Examine this cartoon from Gary Varel.

- What does the cartoon say about the youth of today?
- Is the implication effective? Why or why not?
- Is this an example of horatian, juvenalian, or menippean satire?



Lesson:

- Today, you will be reading Mark Twain’s “Advice to Youth” (1882). In this lesson, you will be focusing on the vocabulary that Twain used to create humor and satirical themes as well as assessing the relevance of the piece to the world today.
- Step One: Read/Annotate “[Advice to Youth](#)”
- Step Two: As you read, complete the [vocabulary sheet](#) to help you learn the connotation and denotation of the words.

The following slides will contain the answer key. Do not move on until you have complete the three steps.

Vocabulary Answer Key

Word	DEFINITION
Didactic	Designed or intended to teach people something
Beseech	To beg (someone) for something; to ask (someone) in an urgent and emotional way to do something
Lark	Ground-dwelling songbirds that are usually brownish in color
Temperate	To exercise moderation and self-restraint; not excessive
Diligence	Steady and careful application; constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken
Eminence	A position of prominence or superiority; a high rank or distinction
Lofty	Exalted or noble in nature; superior
Slander	To make a false spoken statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone
Precept	A rule that says how people should behave

Further Practice:

- While the vocabulary discussed in today's lesson is helpful to understand Twain's tone, humor, and satirical techniques, there are words that he used that you may not have a complete understanding of. For the following words, write your connotation as well as the denotation of each word.

Enduring, Unrefined, Maxim, Preposterous, Merit, Gatling gun, and Inestimable.