

Satire

Main Entry: **sat-ire**

Pronunciation: 'sa- "tIr

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle French or Latin; Middle French, from Latin *satura*, *satira*, perhaps from (*lanx*) *satura* dish of mixed ingredients, from feminine of *satur* well-fed; akin to Latin *satis* enough -- more at [SAD](#)

Date: 1501

1 : a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn

2 : trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly

synonym see [WIT](#)

Satire is an oft used, seldom understood mix of humor, wit, and sometimes irony. In literature, it's frequently used to make light-hearted fun of the human condition and the general folly of man.

CHOOSE ONE of the following activities to demonstrate your understanding of satire (and irony) in **ONE OF THE STORIES** we've read:

- Political cartoons (and cartoons in general) are often a great illustrative example of satire. Through the clever, witty, ironic use of images and symbols, the cartoonist depicts the actions of either specific characters or general public events and happenings as ridiculous or scornful. It's a commentary meant to cause one to think and reflect. *Create a satirical cartoon that depicts the vice or human folly being held up for ridicule or scorn in the story you've chosen. In addition to the cartoon, include a brief yet detailed one paragraph interpretation/analysis of how your work depicts the satire of the story you've chosen.*
- *Develop a short, expository explanation of how irony and/or satire is at work in the story you've chosen. Use specific examples from the text to support your "thesis" related to the story's satirical (and perhaps ironical) elements. Be sure to include at least three brief paragraphs: a beginning, middle, and end. There must be ANALYSIS of the evidence you choose to show how your work depicts the irony and/or satire in the story you've chosen.*
- *Create an "Irony/Satire Timeline" in which you chronologically identify at least 5 elements of satire from one of the stories. To wrap it all up, include either one brief paragraph describing all the events **OR** a brief timeline caption for each event in which you provide an analysis of the events on your timeline. Make certain that your captions **OR** paragraph, whichever you chose to do, provide for a clear yet simple analysis of how satire is at work in the story you've chosen. Depending on the story you choose, you may need to do a little research about the historical and social context of your selected story to identify the satirical elements.*

