

Satire!

Knowing the definition of satire and the following words will help you get a better understanding of Huck Finn and the purpose for why it was written!

What is satire?

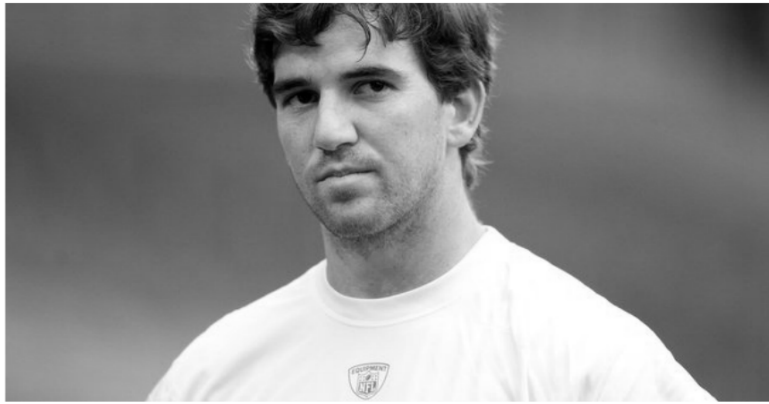


- "the use of ridicule or scorn, often in a humorous way, to expose vices"
- Satire "...uses irony, wit, and sometimes sarcasm to expose human vices, giving impetus (a driving force) to change or reform through ridicule."

Mark Twain, the granddaddy of all satire!

Bottom line, satire is poking fun at something to show how stupid it really is. The satirist wants those who read/see the satire to make a change. Let's look at an example from America's finest news source, *The Onion*.

Eli Manning Throws Big-Boy Touchdown



FOXBOROUGH, MA—Trailing in the final seconds of last Sunday's game against New England, New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning, 30, stunned the Patriots by throwing a big-boy touchdown to clinch a victory. "I did it! I did it!" a jubilant Manning said after the win, adding several times that he threw the big-boy touchdown all by himself "without help from anybody in the whole wide world." "Did you see me? Did you see me throw the ball to my friend in the touchdown?" A day later, Eli's older brother Peyton confirmed that he did in fact see the play, and yes, Eli is a big boy who will grow up and be big and strong like his brother.

**How is this article from
The Onion an example
of satire?**

What is the *purpose* of satire?

- **to engage, entertain, and evoke emotion**
- **to cause the reader to reflect on society's vices**
- **to incite social action through humor**

Two Main Categories of Satire

Horatian satire: gentle and humorous; aims to correct apparent wrongs by gently and broadly sympathetic laughter

Juvenalian satire: biting, bitter, angry; points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of human beings and their institutions

IRONY

Irony is a figure of speech in which the actual intent is expressed in words which carry the opposite meaning.

Example: In *Julius Ceasar*, Antony insists that, "Brutus is an honorable man."



Parody

A Parody is a composition humorously imitating another, usually serious, piece of work. Parody in literature is like caricature in art.

Example: Weird Al Yankovic

"Like a Surgeon," "Eat it,"
"White and Nerdy"



SARCASM

Sarcasm is verbal irony that pretends to praise, but intends to show bitter and personal disapproval. Sarcasm is personal, jeering, and intended to hurt.

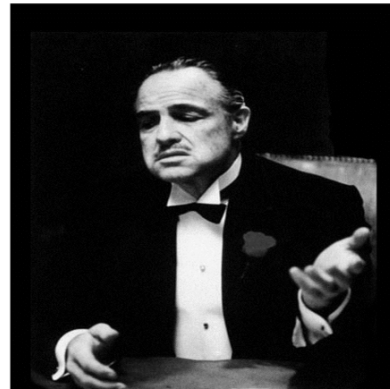
Example: I would absolutely *love* to hear your opinion on this matter. Please, weigh in.



Innuendo

An innuendo is an insinuation or indirect suggestion with a harmful or sinister connotation.

Example: "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse." - *The Godfather*



Invective

An **invective** is harsh or abusive language directed against a person or cause.

Example: "I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth." - Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*



Let's see an example of satire, shall we? As you are watching the short clip from *Shrek*, write down ideas on how it is an example of satire!

