

# Literary Elements of Satire

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending from the right side of the title area across the top of the slide.

# Satire

- A work that uses ridicule, humor, and wit to criticize and provoke change in human nature and institutions.
- Substitute Teacher

- Satire is always topical. That is, it is about something that the author feels needs to be exposed or denounced. It is often a painful, absurd or foolish person, group or situation.

The author tries to produce the unexpected by using one or more of the following:

# Irony



**IRONY**

A fine example.

# Paradox (dilemma or puzzle)



# Antithesis (direct or opposite)

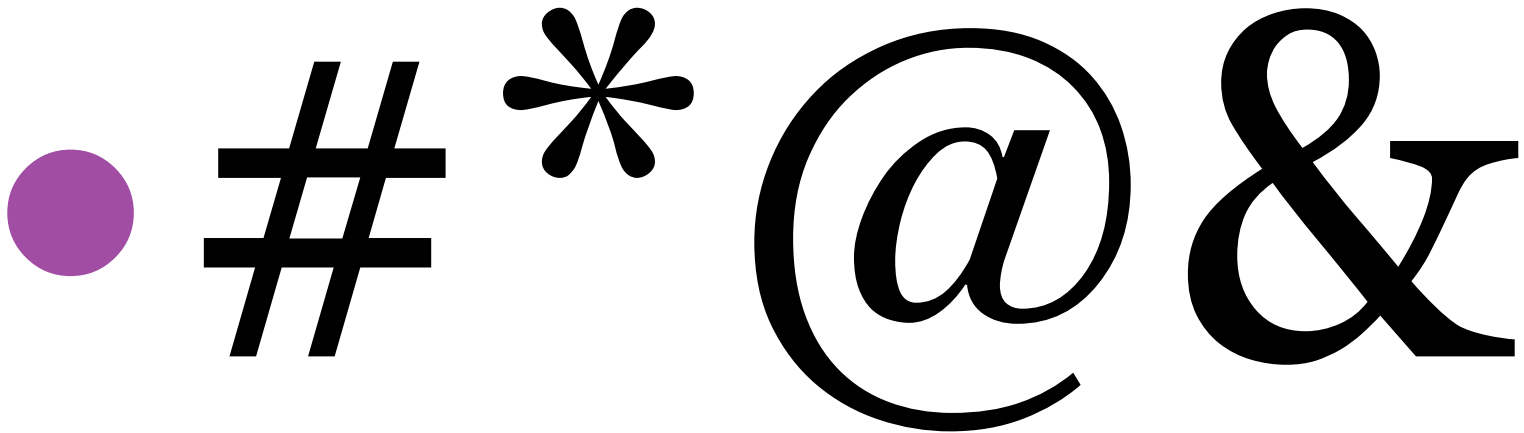


# Parody (caricature)





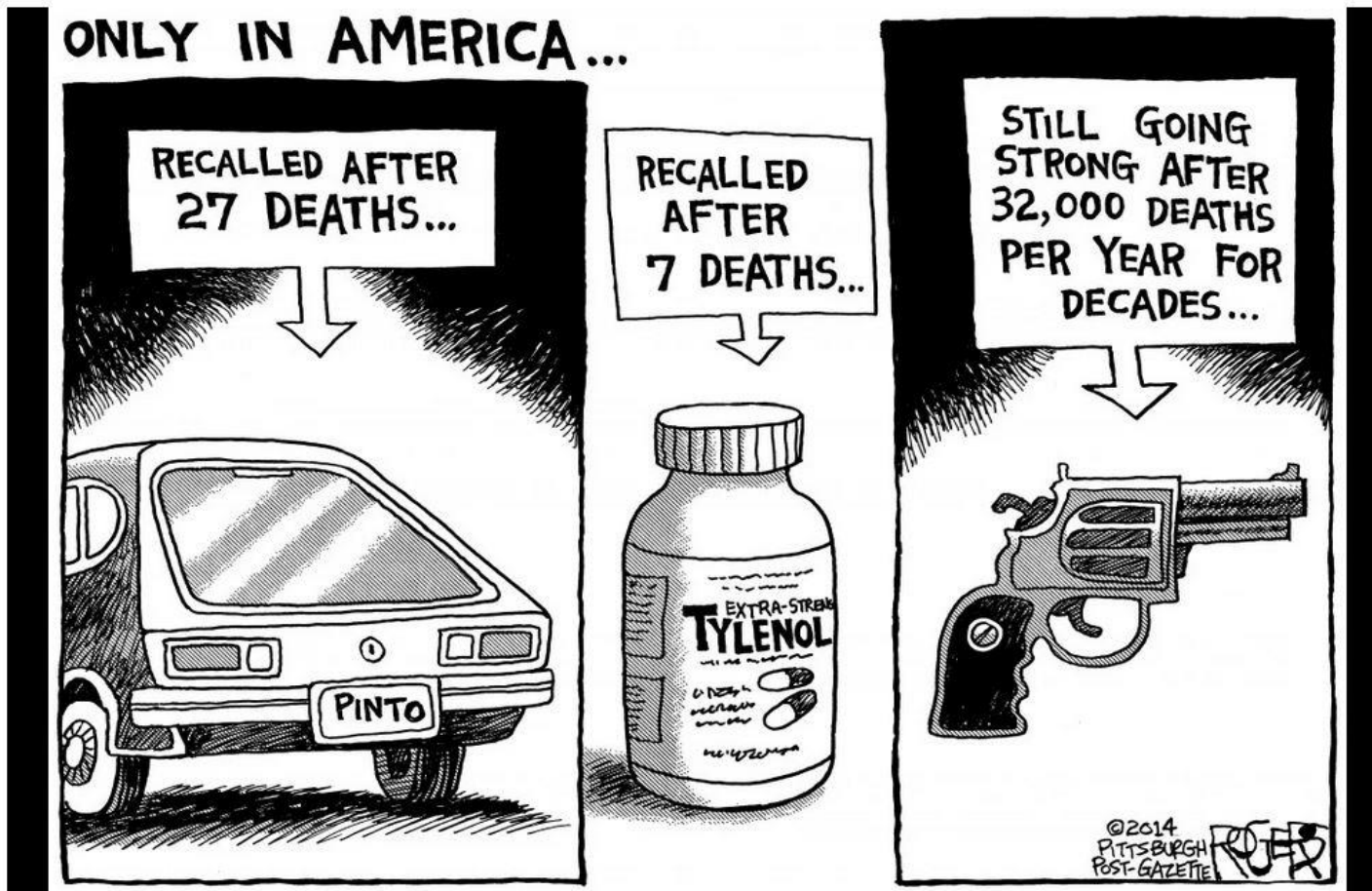
# Obscenity (objectionable language)



# Violence (brutality)



# Vividness (Clarity or intensity)



# Exaggeration (overstatement/Hyperboly)

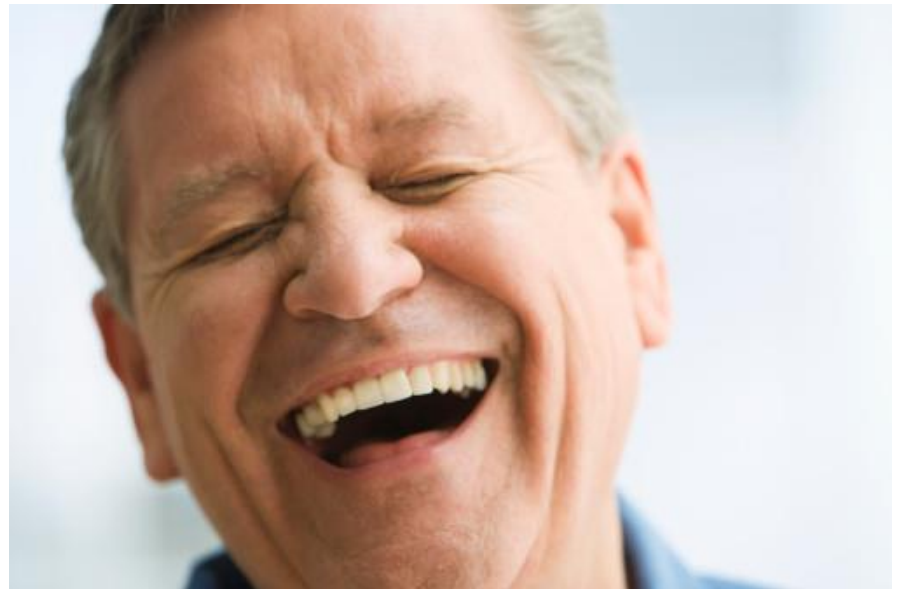


## Satire Review

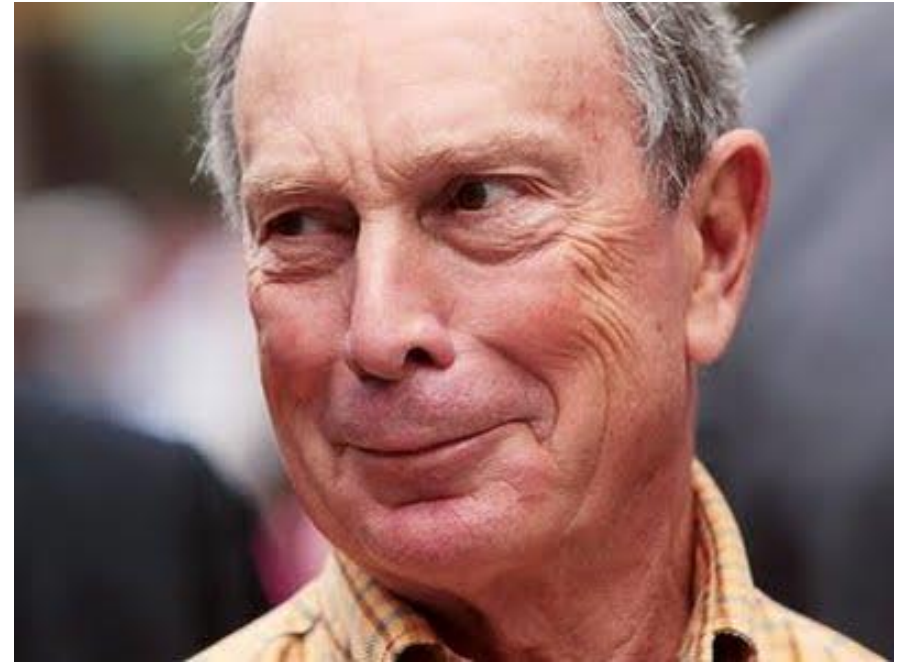
- A topical exposure of something an author feels must be denounced. It is often a painful, absurd or foolish person, group or situation.



- The emotion felt by the author is a blend of **contempt** and **amusement**. In some works one almost completely outweighs the other.



However, it always contains some trace of laughter, however bitter.

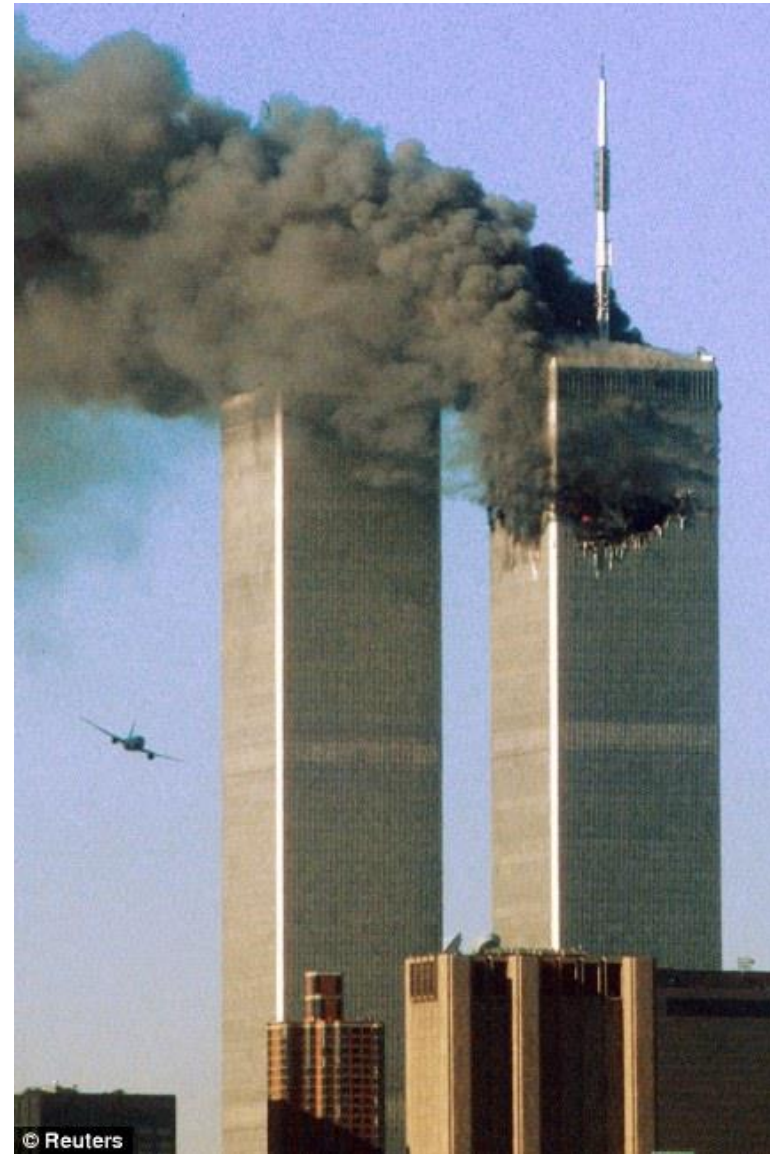


- Horror, hate and fear without amusement will not make a satire, but a **diatribe** a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something, merely a denunciation.





- It is not possible to write an effective satire about Hitler, cancer, or other real tragedies.



# There are two kinds of satirists.

- One is an **optimist** who thinks people are blind and foolish and wishes to cure them.



The other is a **pessimist** who hates people and wants to punish them.



# On Demand Writing

- Choose one piece of satire we reviewed this trimester to analyze.
- Explain how this piece meets the definition of satire by examining the topic and elements of the archetypes.
- In your opinion, is the satirist of this piece an optimist or a pessimist? Explain your answer.

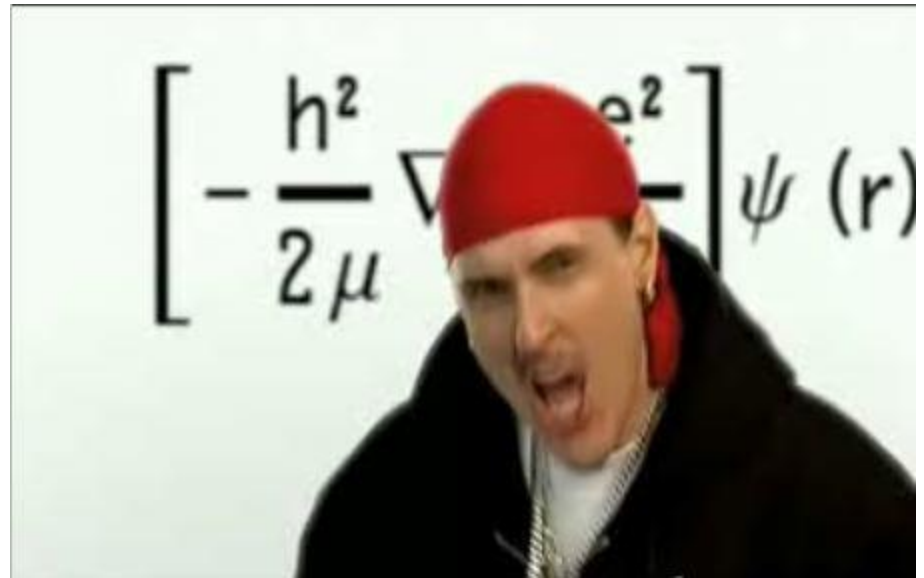
# Satire can take various forms:

- Monologue – This is just one speaker, speaking directly to the audience, usually in the form of an essay.
- “A Modest Proposal”  
by Jonathan Swift  
is an example of this form.



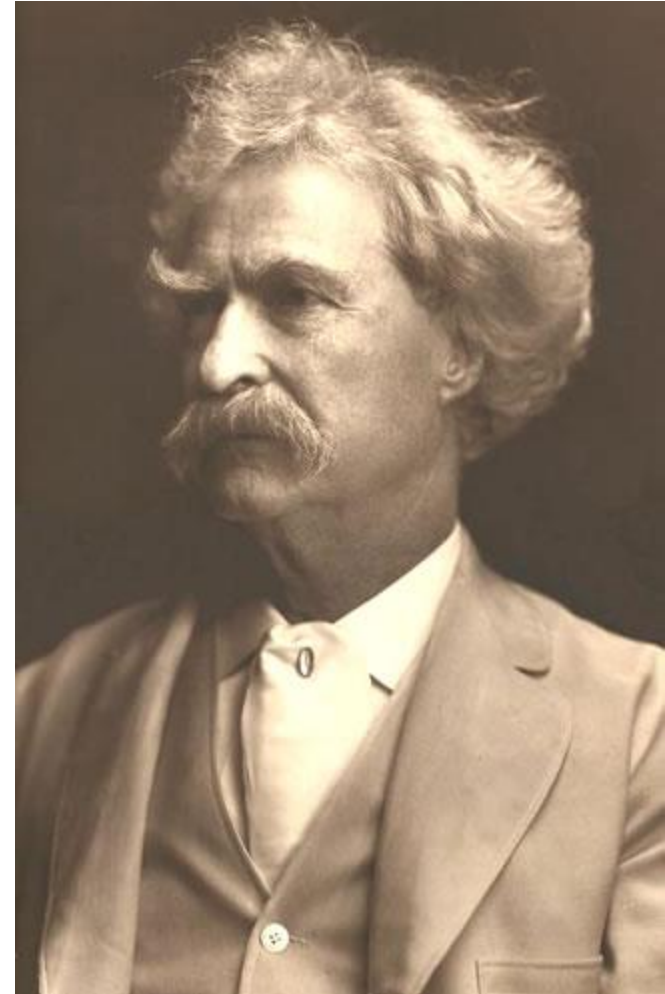
# Satire can take various forms:

- Parody – This is an imitation which uses distortion and exaggeration to evoke amusement or derision. It groups extremes to make them absurd.
- Weird Al does parodies of popular songs.



# Satire can take various forms:

- Narrative - This is a story that leaves a bitter aftertaste with the reader, with the intended purpose of change, like Mark Twain's "War Prayer."



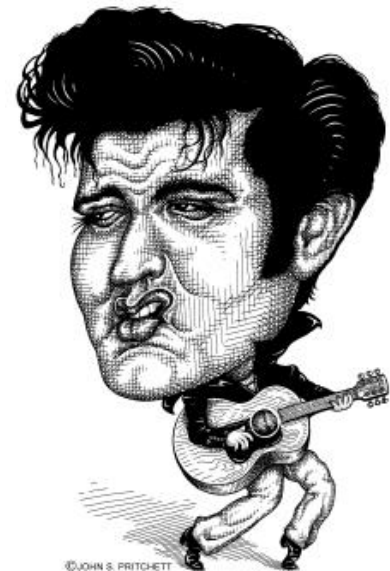
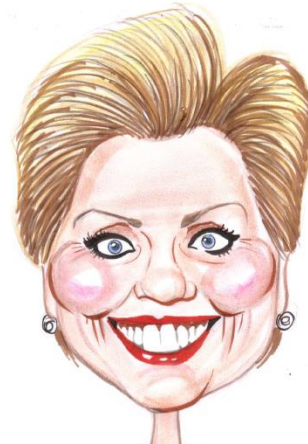
Satire wishes to expose, criticize and shame human life.

- This is often done by introducing a strange land or foreign world, or our own world in the future.
- ***1984*** and ***Animal Farm*** by George Orwell, ***Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley and ***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury are all examples of this form.



# Satire can take various forms:

- Visual Art – Political cartoons and caricatures are examples of this form.
- In caricatures the subject is made to look ridiculous by emphasizing certain important or noticeable features.



# Think about Blaine High School...

- Create an original visual satire about something that should be changed here at Blaine.
- Remember:
  - Optimist or Pessimist
  - Utilize elements
  - Make an attempt at humor