

Political Satire of Stephen Colbert

“If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that He commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it.”

Satire in Literature

Satire of Mark Twain

Satire can be found in literature as well. Consider the following [explanation](#) about satire in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was written shortly after the Civil War, in which slavery was one of the key issues. While Mark Twain's father had slaves throughout his childhood, Twain did not believe that slavery was right in anyway. Through the character of Jim, and the major moral dilemma that followed Huck throughout the novel, Twain mocks slavery and makes a strong statement about the way people treated slaves. Miss Watson is revered as a good Christian woman, who had strong values, but she is a slave owner in the story. She owns a slave called Jim, who runs away upon hearing that Miss Watson might sell him to New Orleans.

Other Forms of Satire

Satire examples can also be found in the following examples of irony, parody, and sarcasm.

Irony

In irony, words are used to show the opposite of the actual meaning. The three kinds of irony are:

- Verbal irony - where what you mean to say is different from the words you use
- Situational irony - compares what is expected to happen with what actually does happen
- Dramatic irony - uses a narrative to give the audience more information about the story than the character knows

A great example of irony in literature comes from *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry. It is a story of two people, much in love, who are very poor and want to give a Christmas gift to one another. She is very proud of her long, beautiful hair and he is equally proud of his pocket watch. The irony comes in to play when she cuts and sells her hair to buy him a chain for his watch, and he sells the watch to buy her combs for her hair.

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a sharp or cutting statement like a taunt or jibe, meant to really drive a point home. It can be meant to give pain and can include irony. On the other hand, sometimes you can make a point and still be funny.

Here are some examples of sarcasm that are humorous, but still get their meaning across.

- Paul Newman said, "It's always darkest before it turns absolutely pitch black."
- Steven Bishop remarked, "I feel so miserable without you, it's almost like having you here."
- Oscar Wilde wrote, "I am not young enough to know everything."
- "Marriage is the chief cause of divorce."

Excerpts from <http://examples.yourdictionary.com/satire-examples.html>

Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver Travels* is one of the finest satirical works in English Literature. Swift relentlessly satirizes politics, religion, and Western Culture.

During Swift's times, two rival political parties, the Whigs and the Tories, dominated the English political scene. Similarly, "The Kingdom of Lilliput" is dominated by two parties distinguished by the size of the heels of their boots. By the trivial disputes between the two Lilliputian parties", Swift satirizes the minor disputes of the two English parties of his period.

from <http://literarydevices.net/satire/>