

Introduction to Satire

Satire is a rhetorical form

Rhetoric: the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing

- Serves a special function of analysis
- ... is a form of criticism (it offers social commentary and critique)
- ... must have a target (or targets)
- ... incorporates wit or humour
- ... is rebellious (satirists often attack the status quo)
- ... is a diverse and protean art form
- ... is a "call to action"

Didactic means it's meant to teach a lesson

- Aesop's Fables

Genre: a type or kind of text/art that is recognizable as part of a group because it adheres to specific conventions (rules) and shares features (plot patterns, stock characters, settings, themes, etc.) with other texts in the genre. (E.g., science fiction, detective fiction, fantasy fiction, gothic fiction)

Form: the shape or structure that a text takes (as distinguished from its content) (E.g., poem, short story, novella, novel, play, graphic novel, essay)

Mode: a stance or approach taken in a text; an attitude that transcends genre or form (E.g., satire, comedy, tragedy)

Defamiliarization: a technique by which the familiar is rendered strange. Defamiliarization creates critical distance and allows us to see common things from a new perspective.

Menippean satire: is a form of satire, usually in prose, which has a length and structure similar to a novel and is characterized by attacking mental attitudes rather than specific individuals or entities.

- indirect satire through narrative
- voyage in an upside-down world
- multiple targets
- characters are ridiculous mouthpieces for various ideological or political positions.
- ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Horatian Satire: after the Roman satirist Horace; satire in which the voice is indulgent, tolerant, amused, and witty. The speaker holds up to gentle ridicule the absurdities and follies of human beings, aiming at producing in the reader

Juvenalian Satire: after the Roman satirist Juvenal; in literature, any bitter and ironic criticism of contemporary persons and institutions that is filled with personal invective, angry moral indignation, and pessimism.

Invective: speech or writing that denounces a person, an idea, or an institution; a violent attack in words