

# Introduction

The A Modest Proposal Lesson Plan introduces students to the satirical essay by Jonathan Swift, providing an opportunity to explore complexities in language and critical thinking. This lesson plan aims to enhance students' reading, comprehension, and analytical skills by delving into a piece of literature that challenges traditional norms and societal constructs. Through this lesson, students will not only improve their English language proficiency but also gain a deeper understanding of historical contexts and satire as a literary device.

## Vocabulary Building

### Vocab

Vocab	Definition
<b>Satire</b>	The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to criticize or mock people's stupidity or vices.
<b>Proposition</b>	A statement or assertion that expresses a judgment or opinion.
<b>Rhetoric</b>	The art of effective speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques.
<b>Irony</b>	A literary technique that involves discrepancies between appearance and reality, expectation and result, meaning and intention.
<b>Hyperbole</b>	Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. It is often used for emphasis or effect.

### Contextual Usage

1. **Satire:** The essay uses **satire** to highlight the absurdity of certain societal norms.
2. **Proposition:** Swift's proposal in the essay challenges readers' perspectives on social issues.
3. **Rhetoric:** The author employs rhetorical devices to convey his argument effectively.
4. **Irony:** There is subtle **irony** in Swift's seemingly serious proposal.
5. **Hyperbole:** Swift utilizes **hyperbole** to emphasize the extremity of his proposal.

## ESL Warm-up Activity

To begin the lesson, present students with a series of statements or proposals related to societal issues, some of which are satirical and others that are serious. Ask students to distinguish between the *satirical* and the *serious* proposals. This activity will not only introduce them to the concept of satire but also pique their curiosity about Swift's writing style in "A Modest Proposal." It sets the tone for critical thinking and analysis, aligning with the themes they will explore in the lesson.

## Main ESL Lesson Activities

### Vocabulary Activity: Word Play

Divide the class into groups and provide each group with a set of vocabulary words from the essay. Instruct them to create sentences using these words in a satirical manner, emulating Swift's style.

### Listening Exercise: Analyzing Audio Clips

Play selected excerpts from "A Modest Proposal" and have students listen attentively. Then, facilitate a class discussion on the tone, language use, and underlying messages conveyed in the excerpts.

## **Roleplay: A Modern Proposal**

Assign each student a modern social issue and have them craft their own satirical proposal addressing that issue. Students can then present their proposals to the class in a roleplay activity, adopting Swift's stylistic elements.

## **Reading and Writing: Analyzing Satire Techniques**

Provide students with examples of satire from various sources. In pairs, they should identify different *satire techniques* employed and discuss how these techniques effectively convey criticism or mockery in each example.

## **ESL Homework Assignment**

### **Homework Assignment: Critical Analysis**

Ask students to find a modern example of satire in the media, such as a political cartoon, article, or video. They should analyze the piece and identify the satirical elements present, drawing parallels to Swift's techniques in "A Modest Proposal."

### **Extended Writing Task: Crafting Satire**

Assign students to write their own short satirical piece addressing a contemporary

issue. Encourage them to apply the satire techniques discussed in class and reflect on how language can be used for social commentary.

## **Reflection Journal**

Task students with reflecting on their understanding of satire and its impact on society. They should record their thoughts on how satire can effectively communicate social critiques and what they have learned from analyzing Swift's work.

## **Conclusion**

## **Key Learnings Recap**

Throughout this lesson, students have delved into the world of satire, grasping the intricacies of "A Modest Proposal" and its use of language to critique societal issues.

## **Application and Language Development**

By dissecting Swift's work, students have honed their critical thinking skills and gained a deeper understanding of how language can be wielded for social commentary. Encouraging them to apply these insights in their own writing can further enhance their proficiency in English as they learn to express nuanced perspectives and effectively convey messages through language.

## **Why this topic is great for ESL learning**

The "A Modest Proposal" lesson plan provides a platform for ESL students to engage

in critical thinking while exploring advanced language use. It challenges them to analyze and understand satire, rhetoric, and irony, which can significantly enhance their language skills.

This content not only sharpens their comprehension abilities but also exposes them to historical and literary contexts that contribute to a more comprehensive English language learning experience.