

## Satire in "A Modest Proposal"

### Part A.

**Directions:** Jonathan Swift's satire targets two different victims: the English government, whose laws and regulations oppressed the Irish people, and the Irish themselves, who let themselves be oppressed. Find examples to support both views.

#### English Government

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

#### Irish People

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Swift also leads satiric attacks on a variety of other subjects. List examples.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B.**

**Directions:** List examples of Swift's use of each of the following devices in "A Modest Proposal."

*Understatement*—The speaker makes a serious problem seem inconsequential.

1.

2.

3.

*Overstatement*—The speaker makes a minor problem seem critical.

1.

2.

3.

*Irony*—The speaker presents one opinion but intends the audience to have the opposite opinion.

1.

2.

3.

## Our Modest Proposal

**Directions:** Plan the target for your satiric solution to a social problem. Then write a brief paragraph in the style of Jonathan Swift.

Problem to be solved:

Satiric target:

Intended audience:

Solution:

Satiric devices used:

Paragraph: