Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_



**Introduction to A Modest Proposal**

Note-taking Guide

**Directions:** Scan the QR code or go to the class website, [www.mrsguillory.weebly.com](http://www.mrsguillory.weebly.com). Click on *Curriculum Units & Resources*>Satire/*A Modest Proposal*. As you view the presentation, complete the note-taking guide. NOTE: You will likely have to download the presentation in order to view it.

**I. Opening Others’ Eyes**

* What if you had good ideas for solving a terrible social problem, but no one would listen to you? What would you do to get people to listen to you?
* Use the space below to make a list of at least 3 things you’d do to get people’s attention about the issue.

**II. The Social Issue Swift Brought Attention to**

* The social issue: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* This was an issue because:
  + Irish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (crops) were poor
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ couldn’t pay the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English landlords wanted
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and starving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ filled the streets
  + England’s governmental \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kept the Irish poor

**III. Why Swift Responded**

* Appalled by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Ireland, Jonathan Swift set out to make the English more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to their neighbors’ suffering.
* Meaning, he wanted the English to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what the Irish people were going through
* He wrote a pamphlet—a shocking satire that offered an outrageous “solution” to the problem of famine.

**IV. Literary Focus: Verbal Irony**

* Verbal irony is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Example: You overslept, forgot to feed the dog, and are coming down with a bad cold. Someone asks you how you’re doing, and you respond, “Just great. I wish every day could be just like this one.” You have just used verbal irony.

* Writers cannot depend on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to convey (show) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so they use irony to make their point
* Irony is used in the title, “A Modest Proposal”
* Modest, in this case, means: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Swift’s proposal is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the point of absurdity, or silliness

**V. Reading Skills: Recognizing Persuasive Techniques**

“A Modest Proposal” is a classic example of persuasive writing used for the purpose of satire.

Watch for these persuasive techniques:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ appeals** use evidence such as facts or statistics to support a position.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ appeals** use words that arouse strong feelings.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ appeals** establish the writer’s sincerity and qualifications.