

What is a satire?

It is a movie or book that pokes fun at something (or someone) to point out their weaknesses or failures.

You might ask, “Isn’t it mean to point out someone’s weakness?” Well, yes, normally. But satire draws attention to problems in society – for instance, in the government, of celebrities, or of a particular type of person. They point out these weaknesses or failures in the hopes of seeing a change for the better.

There are different ways that satires make fun of something. They include:

exaggeration

incongruity

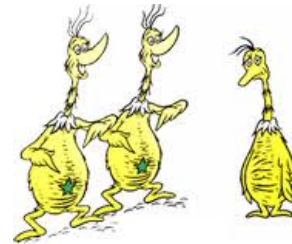
reversal

parody

Exaggeration

Definition: Stretching the truth.

Example: I am so hungry that I could eat an entire horse!



Incongruity

Definition: Something that is not balanced or out of place.

Example: The Sneetches with stars on their bellies “would have nothing to do with the plain bellied sort.”

Watch the Sneetches to see how the star-bellied Sneetches base their feelings of being “better” on something as little – as incongruous – as a tiny little star on their belly.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMolzESn4oI>

Reversal

Definition: Turnaround, swap, or switch around.

Example: In Gulliver’s Travels, the Lilliputian, who were quite small, were in complete control of Gulliver, who could have very easily taken control of the land and the people. Yet Gulliver acts as if he was unable to change his situation in any way.

Parody

Definition: An imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist or type of work, exaggerating it to make it funny.

Example: The TV show So Random often uses parody to imitate and poke fun at things. For instance, after watching the music video for Whip My Hair by Willow Smith (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymKLyvmvD2U&ob=av3e>), you will be more inclined to laugh at Ketchup on Everything by So Random (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Dryd2zWPbw>).