

Lecture Six The Eighteenth Century



- Historical Background
- Enlightenment Movement
- Literature in this period
- Jonathan Swift
- Thomas Gray
- William Blake
- Robert Burns








Historical background



● At home

A. With the establishment of **constitutional monarchy** in England, the sovereign was more or less a figurehead. While the authoritative power fell into the hands of **parliament**. The revolution resulted in a speedy development of the English society.

In politics, soon after the rising bourgeoisie were in control of the government, there appeared two hostile parties: **the liberal Whigs**, who were determined to safeguard popular liberty, **and the conservative Tories**, with tender memories of kingcraft, who would leave as much authority as possible in the royal hands.






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- B. In economy, trading companies, big or small were mushrooming. Many investments became popular, the invention of steam engine, textile machine and a great deal of machinery of other kinds during the middle of 18th century made the industrial revolution force its way into England.
 - Enclosure of land, which was legalized, swept on an unexampled scale over the whole country. The majority of peasants were ruined and driven off their land which passed into the hands of the landlords 18th century England witnessed unprecedented technical innovations which equipped industry with steam, the new moving force, and new tools, and rapid growth of industry and commerce, which influenced the way of social life as a whole. This is called the Industrial Revolution.
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- C. With the development of the society, both in economy and politics, social life was never as it had been before.
 - The old aristocratic class was fast losing its power politically and economically to the rising urban middle class or bourgeoisie who worked hard, economized and accumulated great wealth and became the mainstay of the nation.
 - The Puritan spirit of wisdom, diligence, honesty, and thriftiness contributed greatly to the development of the country. They accumulated more wealth and money, and their social status was raised.
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Abroad

- The development of English capitalism was also witnessed in the rapidly increasing colonial expansion. Britain continued to expand its colonies abroad in Asia, Africa and North America, which led to social unrest in Scotland, Ireland, America. So wars were inevitable.
 - The most important war in this period was the Seven Years War(1756-1763) in which England defeated France to take Canada into its possession.
 - Other wars in Australia or the Mississippi Valley or the islands of the Pacific quickly and enormously increased the lands of British Empire, to say nothing of its commercial expansion everywhere throughout the world.
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- Then there came the outbreak of American Revolution in 1776, and the year 1789 saw the French Revolution, which with liberty, equality and fraternity as its watchwords, awoke the oppressed people as well as the poor, and inspired them to strive for an ideal society.
 - Because of those things there arose a progressive intellectual movement—the Enlightenment both in England and in other lands in Western Europe in the 18th century.
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Ideologically: An age of Enlightenment

- Enlightenment is:
 - an intellectual movement beginning in France and then spread throughout Europe.
 - a continuation of Renaissance in belief in the possibility of human perfection through education .
 - the guiding principle or slogan is Ration/Reason, natural right and equality (American Independence War in 1776; French Revolution in 1789).
 - Rationality became standard for measurement of everything.
 - The representatives are Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift and Joseph Addison.
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Enlightenment Movement

The eighteenth century Europe has witnessed one of the greatest events in human civilization—the Enlightenment.

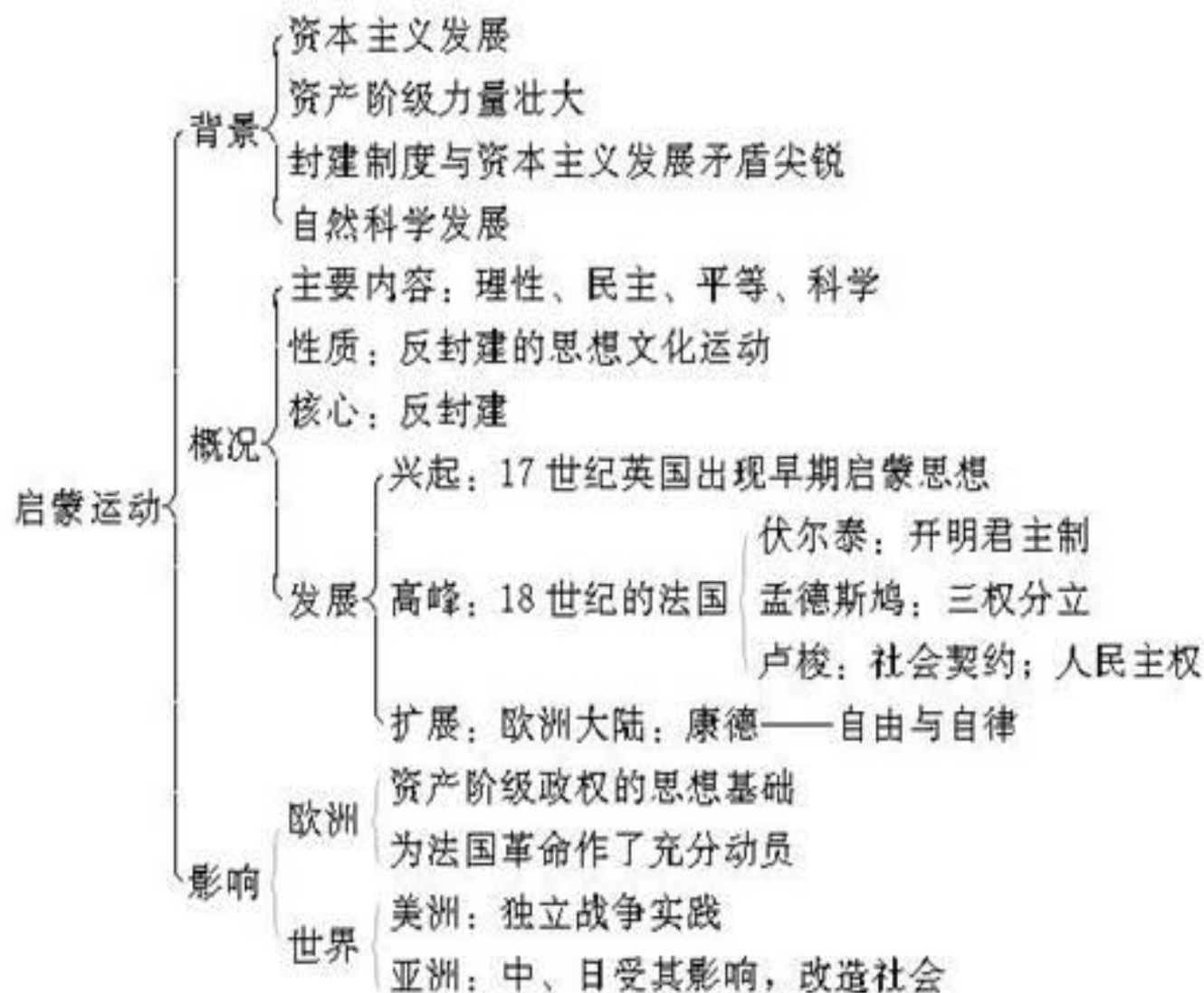
The Enlightenment Movement was a progressive intellectual movement that flourished in France and swept through the whole Western Europe.

Its purpose was to enlighten the whole world with the light of modern philosophical and artistic ideas. The enlighteners celebrated reason of rationality, equality and science. They also advocated universal education.

The Enlightenment movement has exerted far-reaching influence on the Eighteenth century English literature.



1. 知识结构



The Enlightenment

视读

Lloyd Spencer And Andrey Kravtsov

【英】苏埃德·斯潘塞 安德烈·克劳兹 / 著

《介绍丛书》.....INTRODUCING.....《全年龄推荐》

启蒙运动

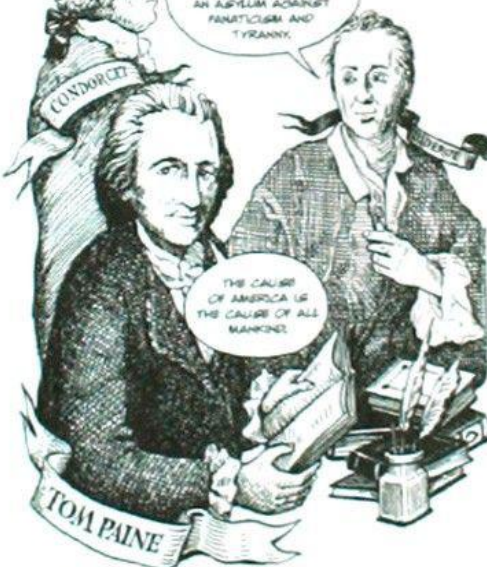


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孟德斯鸠

主张：反对君主专制
提倡三权分立
代表作：《论法的精神》

卢梭

主要观点：反对封建专制
主张“天赋人权”“人民主权”
代表作：《社会契约论》

启蒙运动的扩展

扩展


情况：从法国扩展到其他国家
代表：康德
主张：独立思考、理性判断
主权在民
自由平等与法律约束
代表作：《纯粹理性批判》

意义

解放了人们的思想，冲击封建专制
推动了资产阶级革命，描绘资本主义蓝图
传播自由平等思想，鼓舞民族独立运动




English Enlightenment

- The 18th English Enlightenment on the whole, was an expression of struggle of the progressive class of bourgeoisie against feudalism. The enlighteners fought against class inequality, stagnation, prejudices and other survivals of feudalism.
 - They attempted to place all branches of science at the service of mankind by connecting them with the actual deeds and requirements of the people.
 - The representatives are Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe, and Jonathan Swift.
- 




Literature: Age of Neoclassicism

- Inspired by the spirit of Enlightenment,
 - better education facilitated by developing economy, was available to more and more people, esp. middle-class men and women, more schools and social clubs were established.
 - Ancient classic works and contemporary French works were models of writing.
 - New genres of literature appeared to satisfy middle-class readers:
 - — **Periodicals** (*Tatler* and *Spectator*) to write interesting sketches and stories, to entertain and teach
 - — **Novels** about middle class by middle class for middle class's education (realist novel, gothic novel)
 - **Poetry**
 - **Drama**
 - **Sentimentality literature**
- 




Literature in this period

- (1) 1700—1745, neo-classicism in poetry of Alexander Pope, a new prose literature in the essays of Addison and Steele and in the first realistic fiction of Defoe and Swift.
 - (2) 1740s-1750s, the realistic novels of Richardson, Fielding and Smollet, of whom the last two made rather fierce attacks on the existing social conditions but still maintained sufficient faith in the eventual triumph of virtue over vice and in the final attainment somehow of social justice.
 - (3) The last decades, decline of the Enlightenment, the appearance of new literary tendencies of sentimentalism and pre-romanticism.
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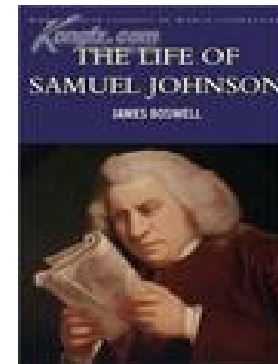
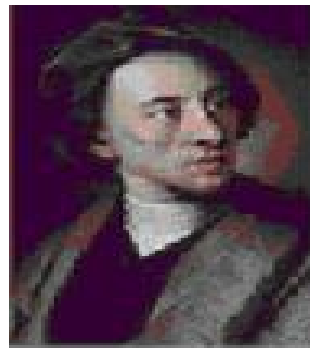


Neoclassicism

- The Enlightenment brought about a revival of interest in the old classical works. This tendency is known as **Neoclassicism**.
 - According to neoclassicists, all forms of literature were to be modeled after the works of ancient Greek and Roman writers and those of contemporary French ones.
 - They believed that artistic ideals should be order, logic, restrained emotion and accuracy, and that literature should be judged in terms of its service to humanity.
 - Neoclassicists had fixed laws and rules for almost every genre of literature.
- 


Representative Writers of Neoclassical School

- John Dryden was an advocate of Neoclassicism in the late 17th century.
- Alexander Pope was the representative poet of neoclassical school in the early 18th century.(P167)
- Samuel Johnson, the writer of the first English dictionary, also follows the neoclassical tradition.






English novels before the 18th-century

- The English novel did not mature until the 18th century. Before then, England's chief literary achievements were in the fields of drama and poetry.
 - The development of the English novel was strongly influenced by European novels.
 - The English term "novel" came from the Italian word novella, which was applied by the Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio to the short, anecdotal prose narratives in his *Decameron* (1349).
 - The modern European novel began after the Renaissance, with Cervantes's "Don Quixote". The modern English novel began two centuries later, in the 18th century.
- 




The Rise of the Novel

- The rise and growth of the realistic novel is the most prominent achievement of 18th century English literature, which has given the world such novelists as Defoe, Swift, Richardson, Fielding, Smollett and Sterne.
 - The novel became a dominant form of literature in the 18th-century England because it allowed the writer a creative space that no other genres of literature could provide.
 - England produces three greatest novelists: **Daniel Defoe**, father of modern novel and the author of *Robinson Crusoe*; **Jonathan Swift**, the greatest English satirist and the author of *Gulliver's Travels*; and **Henry Fielding**, the author of *Tom Jones*.
- 




Approaches to Read Novels

- ◆ Narrator/ point of view (the first person and the third person, the limited/omniscient point of view)
 - ◆ Characterization —Protagonists and antagonists (hero, anti-hero, heroine, anti-heroine)
 - ◆ Foreshadowing / setting
 - ◆ Rising conflict—climax—falling action
 - ◆ Motif / Tone and theme / Symbols
- 




Sentimentalism

- In the first half of the 18th century, Pope was the leader of English poetry and the heroic couplet the fashion of poetry. By the middle of the century, however, sentimentalism gradually made its appearance. Sentimentalism came into being as the result of a bitter discontent among the enlightened people with social reality.(P169)
 - The representatives of sentimentalism continued to **struggle against feudalism, but they sensed at the same time the contradictions in the process of capitalist development.** Dissatisfied with reason, which classicists appealed to, sentimentalists appealed to sentiment, "to the human heart." Sentimentalism turned to the countryside for its material, and so is in striking contrast to classicism, which had confined itself to the clubs and drawing-rooms, and to the social and political life of London.
- 




Sentimentalist Fiction

- Sentimentalist fiction was engraved on psychoanalysis of human mind.
 - Sentimentalism also finds its voice in English fiction (Richardson; Goldsmith; Sterne).
 - The representative writers are: Samuel Richardson, the author of *Pamela*; Laurence Stern, the author of *Tristram Shandy* and Oliver Goldsmith, the author of *The Vicar of Wakefield*.
- 




Sentimentalism in English Poetry

- The appearance and development of sentimentalist poetry marks the midway in the transition from classicism to its opposite, Romanticism, in English poetry.
 - **Thomas Gray** was the most widely read sentimentalist poet, whose *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* established his reputation as the spokesman of Graveyard School.
 - William Cowper, Edward Young, William Collins and James Thompson also belong to the sentimentalist school.
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Pre-Romanticism in poetry

- In the latter half of the 18th century, a new literary movement arose in Europe, called Romantic Revival. It was marked by a strong protest against the bondage of Classicism, by a recognition of the claims of passion and emotion, and by a renewed interest in medieval literature.
 - In England, this movement showed itself in the trend of Pre-Romanticism in poetry, which was ushered in by Thomas Percy, James Macpherson and Thomas Chatterton, and represented by William Blake and Robert Burns.
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BUSINESS STORY

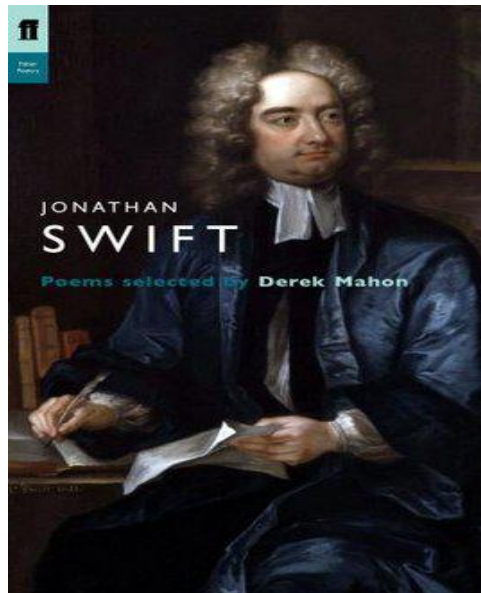
SPECIAL PAGE

Jonathan Swift



Jonathan Swift


(1667—1745)



Proper words in proper places, make the true definition of
style.
—Jonathan Swift



Key Points and Difficulties (重点与难点)

- Jonathan Swift's life
 - Plot summary and the secret of the power of *Gulliver's Travels*
 - Appreciating *A Modest Proposal* (theme, main idea, style, tone)
 - Swift's artistic features and literary position
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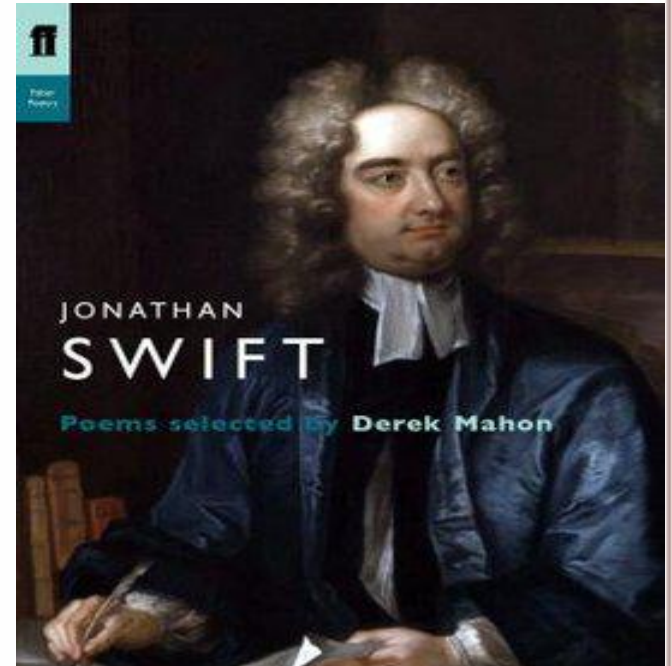
Literary position

He is one of the greatest masters of English prose.

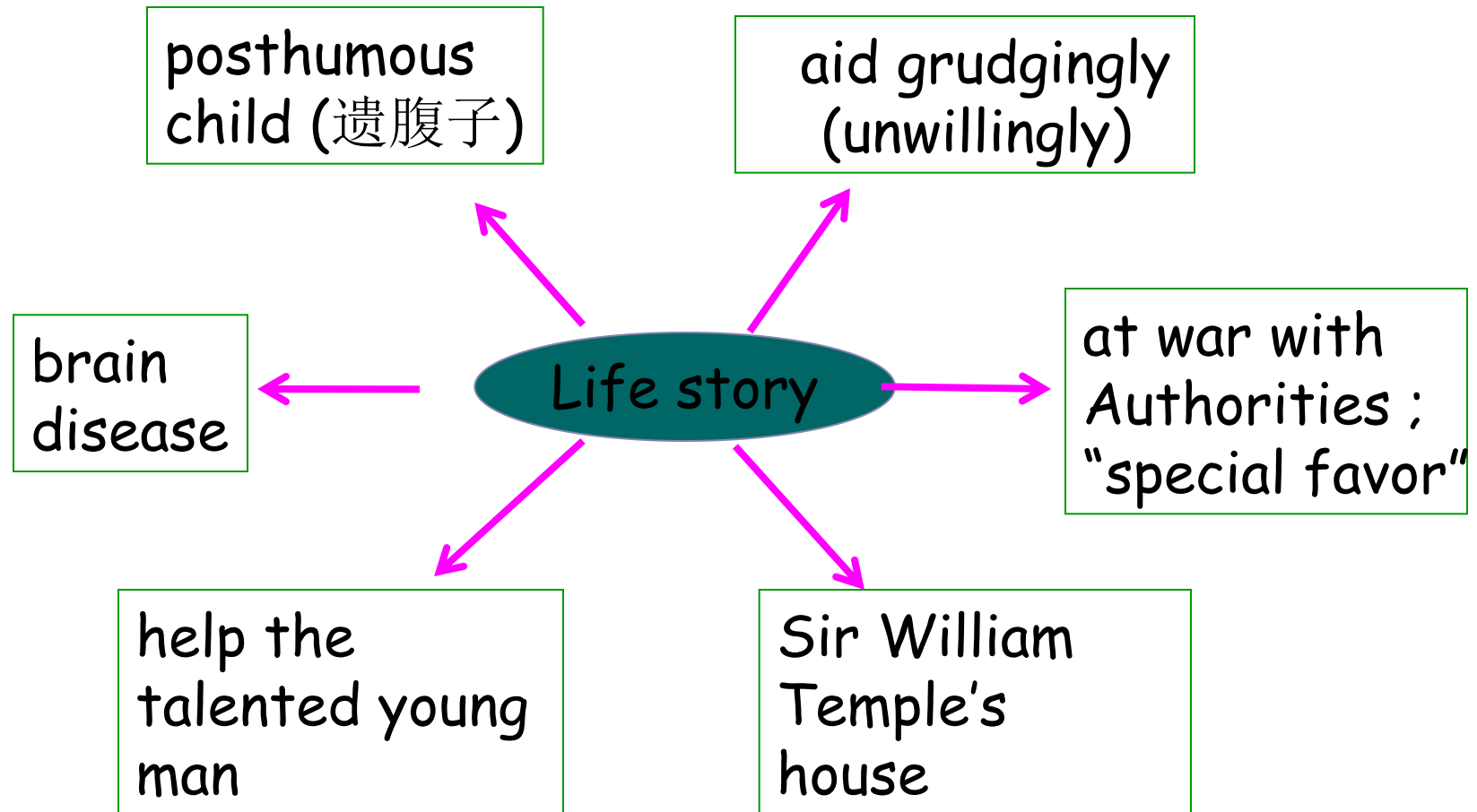
He is a master satirist.

Swift was a man of great moral integrity(节操,气节) and social charm. Even today he is still regarded as a national hero in Ireland.

Swift as depicted on the Irish £10 banknote, issued 1976-1993.



Jonathan Swift (1667–1745)



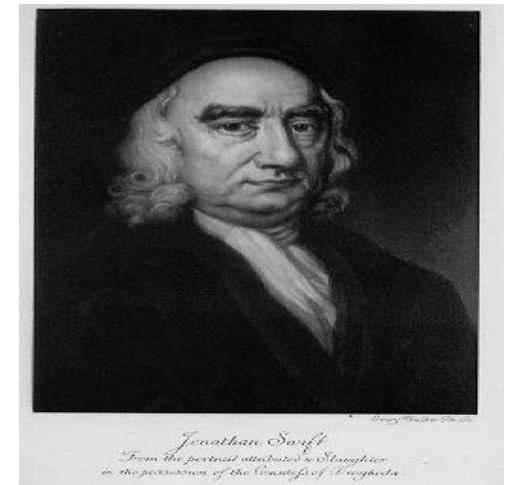
Major Works



- *The Battle of the Books* (1697)
(a keen satire upon both parties in the controversy)
- *A Tale of a Tub* (1704)
(a satire upon the various churches of the day, criticize Christianity; Anglican Church is no better than Catholics or Puritans)
- *The Draper's Letters* (1724)
- *Gulliver's Travels* (1726)
- *A Modest Proposal* (1729)
- Swift's pamphlets on Ireland form a very important part of his works. They have now become part of classic English literature. Swift's life in Ireland gave him an intimate knowledge of the miserable condition of the Irish people.

Swift's Style

- simple, clear, vigorous language;
- simple, direct and precise prose;
- a master satirist;
- Deadly **irony**;
- powerful satire.




Satire (名) 讽刺文学, 讽刺

- A common form of the 18th Century, basically the ridiculing of any objects through laughter which will soften the blow
- Different types and degrees: light or harsh
- 讽刺是一种文学手法, 用于暴露对象的缺点和可笑之处, 常采用夸张或反讽 (irony) 等方式, 从而产生幽默的效果。当然也可以用拙劣模仿, 作戏, 并列, 对比, 类似, 类推等也经常用于讽刺手法中。
- 如果说反话 (反讽) 就是讽刺的话, 是一个很大的错误。严格来说, 讽刺 (satire) 是一种俗称类型; 而反讽 (irony) 则是一种比较具体的修饰手法



Satire

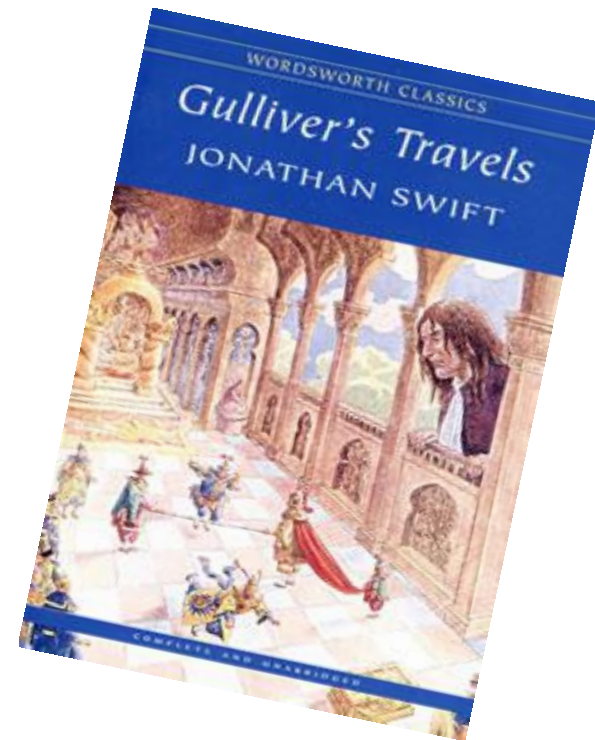
- Satire—A kind of writing that holds up to ridicule or contempt the weaknesses and wrongdoings of individuals, groups, institutions, or humanity in general. The aim of satirists is to set a standard for society, and they attempt to persuade the reader to see their point of view through the force of laughter.
 - The most famous satirical work in English literature is Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.
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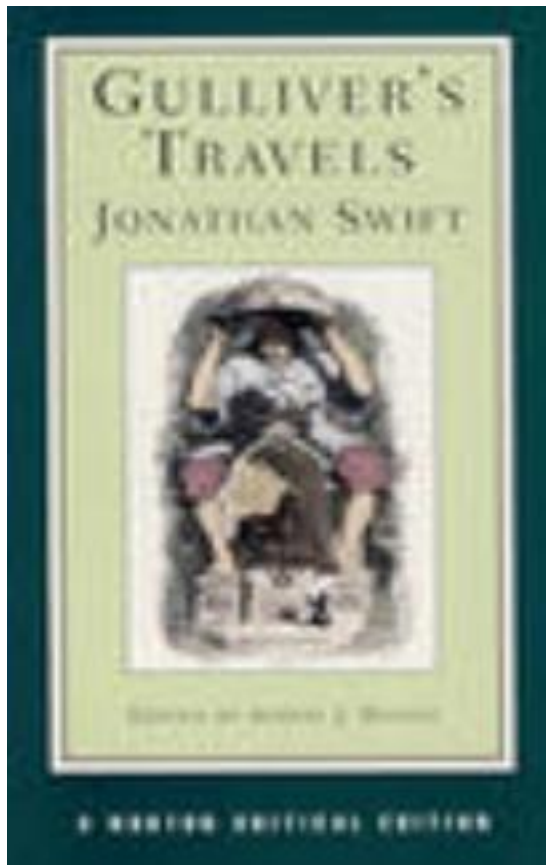
Introduction

Swift's greatest satire *Gulliver's Travels*, is written in 1726, the book has not lost its significance to the present day and can be justly ranked among the best novel of world literature.

Gulliver's Travels serves as a biting satire, and Swift ensures that it is both humorous and critical, constantly attacking British and European society through its descriptions of imaginary countries.



Plot and Major Characters



Written in the form of a travel journal, *Gulliver's Travels* is the fictional account of four extraordinary voyages made by **Lemuel Gulliver**, a physician who signs on to serve as a ship's surgeon when he is unable to provide his family with a sufficient income in London.

Four Voyages



Lilliput 小人国



Brobdingnag 大人国

Houyhnhnm



Flying Island 飞岛





a satire on the
Tories & the Whigs

Lilliput (小人国)

a satire on English
lords and ladies

Brobdingnag(大人国)

Gulliver's Travels 《格林佛游记》 **1726**

country of horses(马岛)

a satire on the conflicts
of English society
and people

Flying Island (飞岛)

a satire on corrupted
philosophers

First voyage—Lilliput

On the very first voyage,
Gulliver is shipwrecked.



Of all the ship's
crew he alone survives.
He swims to the shore
of a strange land,
inhabited by
Lilliputians, the tallest
of whom is six inches
high.





"When bending my eyes downward as much as I could, I perceived a human not six inches high!"



The king of lilliput



Little by little he gets used to their life and even takes part in the war with the neighbouring state of Blefuseu.



Major themes

- The first voyage has been interpreted as an **allegorical satire of the political events** of the early eighteenth century, a commentary on the moral state of England.
- The war with the tiny neighboring island represents England's rivalry between **Whigs** and **Tories**.



Second voyage—Brobdingnag



Gulliver finally escapes Lilliput and returns briefly to England before a second voyage takes him to Brobdingnag. While on shore, Gulliver is captured by giants, each of whom is the size of a water-tower.



On the whole, the Brobdingnagians are good-natured creatures, and they treat Gulliver kindly, though they are amused by his tiny size and looked upon him as a plaything.



Gulliver



Compared with Lilliput, the Brobdingnagians have an enlightened monarch. She often interrogates Gulliver on European affairs.





Gulliver abruptly departs
Brobdingnag when a giant eagle flies
off with him and drops him in the
ocean.



Third voyage—Laputa



He soon embarks on his third voyage to the flying island of Laputa

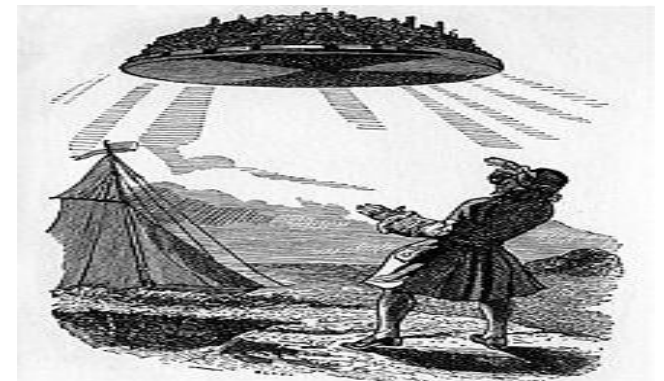


Laputa is a mysterious land inhabited by scientists, magicians, and sorcerers (男巫) who engage in ridiculous experiment.



Major themes

The voyage to Laputa is a scathing (尖刻的) attack upon science in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and reveals Swift's contempt and disdain for abstract theory and ideology that is not of practical service to human.



Final voyage—Houyhnhnm



Once again Gulliver returns to England before a final journey, to the land of the Houyhnhnm

In the country of Houyhnhnm

Houyhnhnm



Horse

Yahoo



In Houyhnhnm's language

There is no evil, no lie, no illness, no power, no war, no government, no law, no punishment and thousands of other things that exists in our society.



Houyhnhnms are a superior race of intelligent horses.

Anything bad is about Yahoos





Yahoos, a vile(极坏的) and depraved race of ape-like creatures.



Gulliver is eventually exiled from Houyhnhnm society when the horses gently insist that Gulliver must return to live among his own kind. After this fourth and final voyage, he returns to England, where he has great difficulty adjusting to everyday life. All people everywhere remind him of the Yahoos.




Major themes

The final voyage reveals Swift's ultimate satiric object—**man's inability to come to terms with his true nature**. The Yahoos as a satiric representation of debased humanity, while taking the Houyhnhnms as representatives of Swift's ideals of rationality and order.

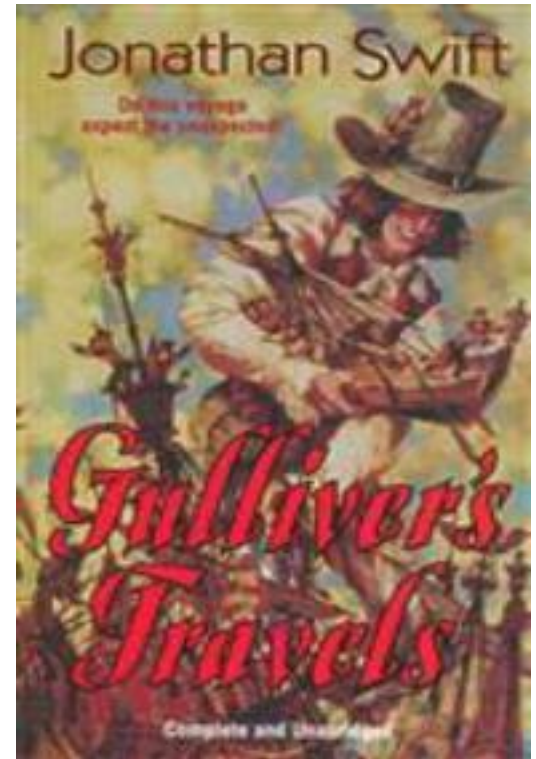




Comment

- It is a book simple enough for a child, and yet complex enough to carry an adult beyond his depth.
 - It is a **satire** on the 18th century English society, touching upon the **political, religious, legal, military, scientific, philosophical** as well as **literary institutions**, about almost every aspect of the society.
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- The novel is a fantasy and a realistic work of fiction. The language, as is typical of all Swift's works, is very simple, unadorned, straightforward and effective.
- It is noted for its exceptionally tidy structural arrangement. The four seemingly independent parts are linked up by the central idea of social satire and make up an organic whole.






Extra information

《格列佛游记》的作者**Jonathan Swift**发明了**yahoo**这个单词。**Yahoo!**的创始人杨致远和**David Filo**选择这个名字的原因是他们觉得自己是**yahoo**。他们选择这个名称的原因是他们喜欢字典里对**yahoo**的定义：“粗鲁，不通世故，粗俗”。

Collins Dictionary:

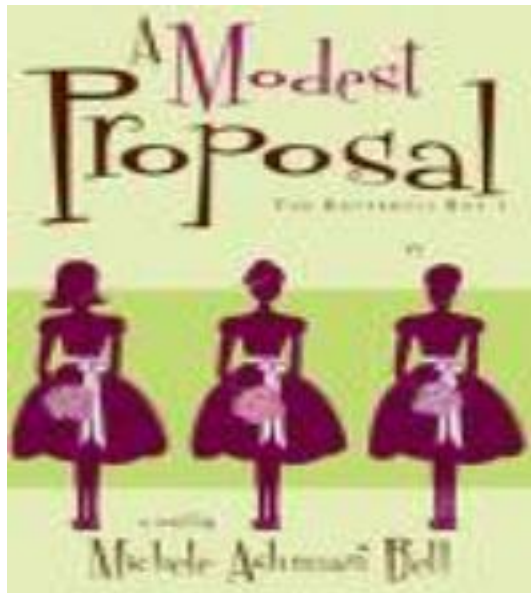
- 1 People sometimes shout `yahoo!' when they are very happy or excited about something.
 - 2 Some people refer to young rich people as **yahoos** when they disapprove of them because they behave in a noisy, extravagant, and unpleasant way. (BRIT INFORMAL)
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《格列佛游记》赏析

《格列佛游记》向来被当作世界儿童文学的经典，但当初斯威夫特创作这部小说的目的并不是为了儿童。作者自己说，他的创作目的“不是为了提供娱乐而是为了激怒这个世界。”也许是作品中的讽刺过于辛辣，这部小说的初版是匿名发表的。在这部小说中，斯威夫特通过丰富的想象，含沙射影地对英国的政治和社会大加挞伐，对人性的弱点进行无情的嘲讽。在慧马国中，马的理智与高贵和野胡的贪欲与鄙陋形成反差极大的对比，高下立判；再通过马的视角观察人类——野胡同类，或者说就是野胡——使人性中的贪婪、堕落和无知等诸多缺点暴露无疑。斯威夫特的冷嘲热讽可谓辛辣尖刻，但文字上不温不火，绵里藏针，精彩之处令人拍案叫绝。斯威夫特的语言具体明晰，简略中透出优雅；他曾把文字风格定义成“恰到好处词语用在恰到好处的地方”，这也许是对他自己的语言风格的最好评注。

《格列佛游记》中的故事是幻想性的、超现实的，但他暗中讽刺的现实即使在今天也并不鲜见，而且他的描写细致入微，给人以强烈的现实感。幻想和现实的统一使这部小说超越了时空限制，成为世界范围内老幼咸宜的不朽名篇。


A Modest Proposal (1729)



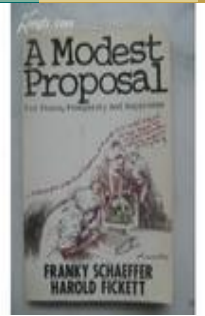
- For Preventing the Children of Poor People in Ireland from Being a Burden to Their Parents or Country, and For Making Them Beneficial to the Public



Questions for Consideration

- What's your understanding of the title/ subtitle?
 - Do you think it's really modest?
 - What's the point of view?
 - What is the structure/theme/tone ?
 - What rhetoric devices are used?
- 

A Modest Proposal




- Swift displayed his powers in his *A Modest Proposal* for Preventing the Children of Poor People from Being a Burden to Their Parents or Their Country in 1729. This ironic pamphlet proposed to cure Ireland's imbalance of people and exports by fattening poor people's children and selling them as delicacies for gentlemen's tables.
- It suggests that poor Irish parents sell their one-year-old baby to English lords and ladies as food so as to solve their own problem of famine.
- It is a **devastating protest** against the English exploitation and oppression.
- The essay is **ironic** and well-structured.



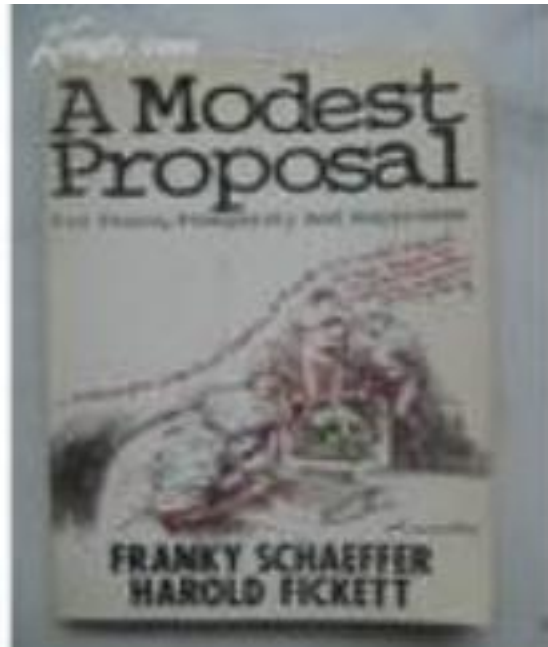
- Jonathan Swift almost defines satire in this biting and brutal pamphlet in which he suggests that poor (Catholic) Irish families should fatten up their children and sell them to the rich (Protestant) land owners, thus solving the twin problems of starving children and poverty in one blow. When the "Proposal" was published, Swift was quickly attacked, and even accused of barbarity - the exact state the "Proposal" was written to expose.



Main Contents of the Essay

- 1) In the opening the author presents a serious problem: the deplorable economic and social conditions that impoverish the Irish and prevent them from providing adequate care for their children. (Para1-7)
 - 2) Then Swift presents his "modest" proposal : Irish infants could be sold as food to the rich, which can help to solve the economic and social problem. (Para8-19)
 - 3) He states the benefits that would accrue from his proposal. (Para20-26)
 - 4) He ends the conclusion by explaining why his proposal is superior to other remedies. (Para27-33)
- 


Textual Appreciation





Jonathan Swift



Discussion questions

1. What is the political context for this proposal?
 2. What is the melancholy object, according to Swift, when people went through the country?
 3. The author provides statistical evidence for his proposal.
 - ① How does he work out the number of children to be sold annually?
 - ② What assumption does he provide about their weight and price?
 - ③ How does suggest that the babies should be consumed?
- 

- 
4. What does Jonathan Swift mean by " I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children." ? (P206, para 12)
 5. Which month offers the best supply of the babies?
 6. The narrator's friend has another suggestion, why does he reject it? (P207)
 7. Explain the use of irony and satire in this essay.
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1. What is the social context for this proposal?

Swift published *A Modest Proposal* in 1729 as a pamphlet .

At that time, Ireland (not an independent country) was far poorer than England.

This ruling class were usually Protestants. Many of them were not born in Ireland, nor did they live there permanently.


Most Irish people were **Roman Catholics** and employed as laborers or tenants. They had been driven to extreme **poverty**.






2. What is the melancholy object,
according to Swift, when people went
through the country?


In this country, there were a prodigious (庞大的)
number of women beggars with their
children because of extreme poverty.





In view of the problem that parents couldn't afford to raise their children, Jonathan Swift presents in a very **serious** manner with **facts** and **figures** and very **refined** diction a **fair, cheap** and **easy** method of making these children sound useful members of the commonwealth.


《一个谦卑的建议》以**文雅**的措词和所谓**经济学数据**，**郑重其事**地作为“一个**公正、不费钱**又**简易可行**的办法”提出来，自称目的在于解决爱尔兰穷人儿女过多而又无力养育的迫切问题。





What is the proposal?

...and it is exactly at one year old that I propose to provide for them in such a manner as **instead of being a charge** upon their parents or the parish, or wanting food and raiment for the rest of their lives, they shall on the contrary **contribute to the feeding, and partly to the clothing, of many thousands.** (P204)





3. The author provides statistical evidence for his proposal. (P205)

① How does he work out the number of babies to sold annually?

The whole population might be 1 million and a half.(150,0000)


Two hundred thousand women were breeders. (20,0000)


Thirty thousand couples are able to maintain their children. (-3,0000)

Fifty thousand women might miscarry or whose children might die by accident or disease within the year. (-5,0000)

There only remained a hunderd and twenty thousand chidren of poor parents annually born. (12,0000)


I do therefore humbly offer it to public consideration that of the hundred and twenty thousand children already computed, twenty thousand may be reserved for breed, (-2,0000)






whereof only one-fourth part to be males; which is more than we allow to sheep, black cattle or swine; and my reason is, that these children are seldom the fruits of marriage, a circumstance not much regarded by our savages, therefore one male will be sufficient to serve four females.

现谨建议如下，祈请公众垂鉴。已统计的十二万名儿童，两万可留下传种，其中四分之一可为男性，此数已超过牛羊猪豕之类留种的比例，理由是这类儿童大多非正式婚姻所生，粗鄙之流亦不介意此点，因此一男可配四女。







That the remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in the sale to (1,00000) the persons of quality and fortune through the kingdom;

always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump and fat for a good table. (P205)

余下的十万可在一岁时卖给国内有地位有钱者，事前叮嘱母亲们在最后一月喂足儿童的奶水，使其肥嫩，以备筵席之用。







② What assumption does he make about their weight and price? (P206)

I have reckoned upon a medium that a child just born will weigh 12 pounds, and in a solar year, if tolerably nursed, increaseth to 28 pounds.


我曾计算，初生儿每个平均重12磅，养育得当，一年后可重28磅。





..... and I believe no gentlemen would repine to give **ten shillings** for the carcass of a good fat child,.....the mother will have **eight shillings net profit**, and be fit for the work till she produces another child.

只要区区十先令就能换如此可口的肉孩，我相信，没有哪位绅士会为此开销皱皱眉头。而做母亲的每年也可以有八个先令的净收入，这使她能好好干活，直到再次生育。







③ What does he suggest about their consumption patterns? (P205 Para.9)

I have been assured by a very knowing American, my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee or a ragout.

我在伦敦认识一个见识很广的美国人，他向我保证：一个奶水充足的健康儿童养到一岁，其肉是最鲜美，最滋补、最健康的食品，炖、煎、烤、煮都好，无疑也可做油煎肉丸和肉丝。






A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends; and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter. (para. 10)

友朋小集，一儿可作两菜；家庭自享，则一臂一腿可各作一道好菜，若能调以少量胡椒和盐，则存放四天后煮吃仍佳，冬季尤然。

Those who are more thrifty (as I must confess the times require) may flay the carcass; the skin of which artificially dressed will make admirable gloves for ladies; and summer boots for fine gentlemen. (Para. 15)

那些节俭一些的父母（我必须得承认此乃时势所迫）可以剥去婴儿的皮，加工一下就会制成精致的女士手套以及男式凉靴。



4. What does Jonathan Swift mean by " I grant this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children." (P206)

他们既已吞食了儿童的父母，当然也最有资格饱餐这些儿童.

This statement is a severe criticism of the brutal exploitation of the Irish people by the English and Irish landlords.





5. Which month offers the best supply of the babies?

There are more children born in Roman Catholic countries about nine months after Lent than any other season; therefore, reckoning a year after Lent, the markets will be glutted than usual,(para.13)

在斋月之后的第九个月，罗马天主教国家新生儿的数量比其他季节要多；因此，据此推算，斋月后的一年，供应将比平时充足.....






6. The narrator's friend has another suggestion, why does he reject it? (P207)

The suggestion is that the lack of venison might be supplied by the bodies of young boy and girls between 12 and 14 who live under starvation.
(para.17)

Jonathan rejected this because the flesh of the boys were lean and tough while eating the girls would be a great loss to the public because they would soon be breeders themselves.







Swift's Irony

In *A Modest Proposal*, Swift suggested with bitter irony, that the poverty of the Irish people should be relieved by the sale of their children as food for the rich.

With the utmost gravity, he set out statistics to show the revenue that would come if the idea were adopted.

- ❑ It would save the people the cost of maintaining many children;
 - ❑ it would reduce the expensive and shameful abortions;
 - ❑ it would reduce the number of Catholics in Ireland.
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在文中，作者模仿谋臣策士的口吻，以忧国忧民的姿态，提议将爱尔兰贫民的婴儿卖给有钱人做菜肴，以解决贫民人口过多的问题。文章口气之冷静，考虑之周密，更显出谋臣策士及主子们的毒辣和无情。

他在文中建议“可以把尸体剥了皮”，用来做“贵妇人们精美的手套”和“风雅绅士们的凉鞋”。在屠宰这个问题上，他建议“不如买活的小儿去”，“随后现宰现做，像我们烤猪那样办法”。后面又分析了这个建议的六大好处。

说得娓娓动听，听来却令人毛骨悚然，衬托出英国殖民统治政策的残酷和惨无人道。


这篇文章也成为对英国殖民主义惊心动魄的控诉。



从标题看，就是绝妙的反讽。“A Modest Proposal”中的“modest”可以译为“小小的、温和的”。表面说这是“小小的/温和的”建议，实际却是无比“残忍”、“恶毒”和“令人发指”的主张。

在具体的叙述中，斯威夫特以一个虔诚的“献策者”的口吻，忧国忧民地分析这件事的厉害得失。

为了让其“妙计”变得更加有说服力，他精打细算，列举数据，甚至引经据典，煞有介事、不动声色地说着反话。在这篇文章中，斯威夫特从头至尾，都不露声色，那种超乎寻常的冷静语调，让人不寒而栗，散文的表层话语与深层蕴含之间，形成巨大的审美张力。



《一个小小的建议》




- 开篇就展现了一幅爱尔兰人民极其悲惨的生活画面，而后作者满怀愤怒却极其冷峻地提出了一项“温和”（实则是极其残酷）的建议：穷人把孩子养肥之后将其宰杀拿到市场上出售，让其成为富贵人家席上的珍品佳肴。全文强烈地谴责了英国殖民主义者对爱尔兰人民的剥削与压迫。他把宰婴为肴的残忍建议说得轻描淡写，但他的愤怒之情及文章的深刻含义溢满字里行间。文章以巧妙的反语、冷峻的态度和炽热的情感打动了读者。作者结合内容有效地使用了夸张、对比、反语等技巧，将讽刺发挥到了极致，堪称英国文学史上惊世骇俗之作。

● 思政启发：道路自信、制度自信





Comments on Jonathan Swift

- Swift is one of the realist writers. His realism is quite different from Defoe's. Defoe's stories are based upon the reality of human life, while Swift's come from imagination.
 - His satire is marked by outward gravity and an apparent earnestness. This makes his satire all the more powerful.
He not only criticizes the evils of the English bourgeoisie but those of other bourgeois countries.
Women's ignorance also serves as a target of his satire, as can be seen from his short poem *The Furniture of a Woman's Mind*.
 - Swift is one of the greatest masters of English prose.
His language is simple, clear and vigorous. He said, "proper words in proper place, makes the true definition of a style".
 - Swift expresses democratic ideas in his works.
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Work to be Prepared

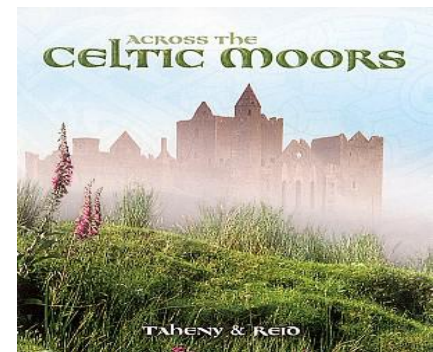
Previewing Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* (墓地挽歌)

What is the rhyme, theme and tone?

How does the poet achieve it?


How many sections can it be subdivided?

Images in the poem





Further Reading

- Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel*.
 - Walter Allen, *The English Novel*.
 - 常耀信. 《英国文学简史》, 南开大学出版社.
 - 陈嘉. 《英国文学史》(Volume 2)
 - 李维屏. 《英国小说艺术史》
 - 刘意青. 《英国十八世纪文学史》
 - 罗选民主编. 《英美文学赏析教程(散文与诗歌)》, 清华大学出版社, 2002.
 - 张伯香主编. 《英美文学选读》, 外语教学与研究出版社, 1998.
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Recommendations

- <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/defoe.htm> 提供笛福的生平年表和作品目录。
 - <http://www.jaffebros.com/lee/gulliver/index.html> 提供1726年版《格列佛游记》的全文和插图，并有注释。
 - <http://art-bin.com/art/omodest.html> A Modest Proposal全文
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