

A Mod est Prop osal

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

By Jonathan Swift

Collected and annotated by Jack Lynch

Swift was Irish, and though he much preferred living in England, he resented British policies toward the Irish. In a letter to Pope of 1729, he wrote, "Imagine a nation the two-thirds of whose revenues are spent out of it, and who are not permitted to trade with the other third, and whose the pride of the women will not suffer [allow] them to wear their own manufactures even where they excel what come from abroad: This is the true state of Ireland in a very few words." His support for Irish causes has made him a renowned figure in modern Ireland. The paragraph numbers have been added for this edition.

What does Swift intend about the irony of his proposal in this paragraph?

[1] It is, a melancholy Object to those, who walk through this great Town,^A or travel in the Country, when they see the Streets, the Squads, and Coach-Drums, crowded with Begging of the Female Sex, followed by their Sons, or six Children, all in Rags, and importuning every Passenger for an Alms. These Mothers instead of being able to work for their honest Livelihood, are forced to employ all their time in Scolding, or beg Sustainance for their hapless Offspring, who, as they grow up, make such Thousands far want of work, or leave their dear native Country in flight for the Pretender in Spain,^B or sell themselves to the Barbadoes.^C

[2] I think it is agreed by all Parties, that this prodigious number of Children, in the Town, on one Side, and on the other of their Mothers, and frequently of their Fathers, is one of the greatest disadvantages of the Kingdom, a very great additional grievance, and something which even could find out a fair, cheap and easy method of making these Children useful and useful Ministers of the commonwealth, would deserve to meet all the public, as to have his Grace set up for a preserver of the Nation.

[3] But my Intention is, very far from being confined to provide only for the Children of professed Beggars, it is of a much greater extent, and shall take in the whole number of Orphans, at a certain Age, who are born of Parents too poor to be able to support them, as those who demand our Charity in the Towns.

A Modest Proposal Annotated

Albert A Gayle



A Modest Proposal Annotated:

A Modest Proposal (Hero Classics) Jonathan Swift, 2025-04-11 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

A Modest Proposal (Annotated) Jonathan Swift, 2020-08 Differentiated book It has a historical context with research of the time This book contains a historical context which helps us understand this literary work We must pay special attention to those events that especially influenced the world of culture and art and also to those events that were especially reflected in literature in the life of its writer or that affected it There are many examples in which historical events have shaped the content and forms of literature as well as this has often been the best testimony to the importance of certain events throughout history This context is formed by everything that in some way influences the event when it happens A fact is always tied to its time that is to its time Jonathan Swift offers us an incomparable starting point to reflect on modernity Our work refers to several of his works and the scientific and social context that surrounds them It would be impossible to summarize all of them but it would also be difficult to follow our argument without remembering the argument of a work of his apparently minor and that however in a few pages crumbles his time and several of the main economic theories of the time We refer to A Modest Proposition to prevent the children of Ireland from being a nuisance to their parents or to the country

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift Annotated Edition Jonathan Swift, 2021-01-03 A Modest Proposal and Other Satires is a collection of satirical works of political social and religious commentary by Jonathan Swift The most famous of his essays perhaps the most famous essay of satire in the English language is A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People in Ireland from Being a Burden to Their Parents of Country and for Making Them Beneficial to the Public This essay was published anonymously in 1729 a year in which Ireland suffered from poverty and famine A Modest Proposal suggests as a method for dealing with the destitution that the Irish eat their babies

Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift Jonathan Swift, 2020-11-19 Published anonymously in 1729 Jonathan Swift's satirical essay A Modest Proposal puts forth the darkly comical idea that the starving poor of Ireland might alleviate their economic condition by selling their children as food for wealthy gentlemen and ladies At its core Swift's Modest Proposal satirizes English exploitation of Ireland in particular and the heartless attitude that rich elites can develop towards the poor in general Along with Gulliver's Travels A Modest Proposal is an early English example of the black comedic genre HarperTorch brings great works of non fiction and the dramatic arts to life in digital format upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms Look for more titles in the HarperTorch collection to build your digital library

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A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift Jonathan Swift, 2025-03-22 A Modest Proposal is a satirical essay written by the renowned Irish author and

social commentator Jonathan Swift published in 1729 This provocative piece has become one of Swift's most famous works and is often hailed as a masterpiece of satire Through razor sharp wit and scathing humor Swift addresses the dire social and economic conditions in 18th century Ireland urging readers to reflect critically on issues of poverty oppression and moral responsibility At first glance Swift's proposal appears straightforward yet shocking he suggests that impoverished Irish families should sell their children as food to wealthy diners as a means to solve both their economic woes and the problem of overpopulation This idea outrageous and macabre serves a greater purpose to draw attention to the neglect and exploitation of the Irish people by the English ruling class Swift's biting irony invites readers to consider the inhumanity of viewing the poor merely as a problem to be managed rather than as human beings deserving of dignity and respect Swift employs a logical and calculated style in presenting his proposal which makes the absurdity of his suggestion all the more striking By framing his arguments in a businesslike tone he mimics the detached rationalism often employed in economic discussions of the time He outlines the advantages of his proposal with calculated precision discussing the economic benefits and even providing calculations to illustrate how much a child could be worth on the market This chilling juxtaposition of cold logic and horrific content forces readers to confront their discomfort and reflect on the larger socio political issues at play Through the course of the essay Swift meticulously critiques both the British government and wealthy landlords who exploit the Irish population He highlights the systemic neglect faced by the impoverished depicting these individuals as victims of a callous socio economic environment The absurdity of his proposal serves as a powerful indictment of the dehumanizing attitudes that allow such injustices to persist unchecked Swift's satirical lens reveals how the ruling class discusses and treats the poor ultimately prompting readers to question their complicity in societal problems Swift's use of irony amplifies the impact of his arguments For instance he suggests that poor families should treat their children as commodities yet he concurrently exposes the inherent absurdity in viewing human life through an economic lens His extreme proposition compels readers to grapple with the underlying truths about societal neglect and moral apathy Rather than offering a genuine solution Swift's essay demands that readers confront the immorality of maintaining the status quo challenging them to reflect on what it means to be humane in the face of suffering The title itself *A Modest Proposal* serves as a significant element of the satire The word modest is deliberately ironic juxtaposing the outrageousness of the proposal with a tone that suggests reasonableness and practicality This contrast prepares readers for the shocking content amplifying the impact of the message Swift's choice of language reinforces the satirical nature of the work as he articulates his ideas with a veneer of civility which ultimately highlights the grotesque nature of his proposition Throughout the essay Swift also employs vivid imagery and detailed descriptions which contribute to its emotional and psychological impact By painting a stark picture of the suffering experienced by the Irish population he elicits sympathy and outrage from his audience This vividness not only serves to shock but also reinforces the urgency of his critique emphasizing the human cost of inaction in response to poverty

and inequality Ultimately *A Modest Proposal* transcends its historical context remaining relevant in contemporary discussions of social justice inequality and ethics The work challenges readers to consider the moral implications of their own actions and the treatment of marginalized populations Swift's audacity to confront societal issues with humor and irony continues to resonate today encouraging critical dialogues about economic policies and social responsibility In summary Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal* stands as a brilliant example of satirical writing that combines humor with a piercing critique of societal norms and injustices Through his outrageous suggestion Swift forces readers to confront the dehumanization inherent in socio-economic discussions and the neglect of vulnerable populations His work challenges us to advocate for compassion and humanity in addressing social issues rather than perpetuating cycles of exploitation As readers engage with this masterfully crafted essay they are invited to reflect on their own roles in fostering a more equitable and just society [A Modest Proposal](#)

[A. Modest Proposal Jonathan Swift, 2021-02-02](#) *A Modest Proposal and Other Satires* is a collection of satirical works of political social and religious commentary by Jonathan Swift The most famous of his essays perhaps the most famous essay of satire in the English language is *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People in Ireland from Being a Burden to Their Parents of Country and for Making Them Beneficial to the Public* This essay was published anonymously in 1729 a year in which Ireland suffered from poverty and famine *A Modest Proposal* suggests as a method for dealing with the destitution that the Irish eat their babies

A Modest Proposal Johnathan Swift, 2014-06-13 I have been assured by a very knowing American of 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 fricasie or a ragoust 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 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 That the remaining hundred thousand may at a year old be offered in sale to 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 [A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift \(Book Analysis\)](#)

[Bright Summaries, 2019-04-08](#) Unlock the more straightforward side of *A Modest Proposal* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis This engaging summary presents an analysis of *A Modest Proposal* by Jonathan Swift a satirical essay which purports to solve the problem of poverty in Ireland Specifically Swift suggests that working class mothers who are struggling to provide for themselves and their children should sell their infants for food which would both bring in more money and enable them to get back to work This deliberately provocative suggestion aimed to draw attention to the plight of Ireland's poor and the callous disregard with which they were treated by the aristocracy and the British elites Jonathan Swift was an Irish writer who was well known for his satirical works including the

novel Gulliver s Travels Find out everything you need to know about A Modest Proposal in a fraction of the time This in depth and informative reading guide brings you A complete plot summary Character studies Key themes and symbols Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries com Available in print and digital format our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries com

A Modest Proposal Jonathan Swift, 2019-09-25 In this satirical essay Jonathan Swift lays out an argument for poor Irish families to sell their children as food to the elite class The essay mocks the dismissive attitude towards the poor and the British view of the Irish people

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