

Name _____

“A Modest Proposal” Stations

Directions: At each station, read the paragraph aloud. Work with your group to answer the questions relating to each station’s paragraph.

Situational Irony Station

1. Explain the passage in your own words by writing one or two sentences about what it says.
2. How does Swift make his audience think he is proposing something that will be good for all the children of the community? What does he say?
3. How is what he actually proposes the opposite of what we would expect?
4. What purpose might this example of situational irony have? (Think about the bigger social issue Swift is making fun of.)

Inversion Station

1. Explain the passage in your own words by writing two or three sentences about what it says.
2. What is the “bad” thing Swift is trying to turn into a “good” thing in this example?
3. What reasons does he give that make it a “good” thing? Look at each paragraph for a reason.
4. Swift mentions more than just starving people and children in this example. Who else does he mention? How might he be criticizing them?

Emotional Appeal Station

1. Explain the passage in your own words by writing two or three sentences about what it says.

2. What emotions does Swift try to make the reader feel?

3. How does he try you use these emotions to convince the reader feel about the poverty situation in Ireland?

4. Tell how much this appeal convinced or did not convince you to feel those emotions about the poverty situation in Ireland at the time.

Ethical Appeal Station

1. Explain the passage in your own words by writing one or two sentences about what it says.

2. Who does Swift use testimony or endorsement from in this example? (Hint: There are two!)

3. How does Swift use the testimony to try to convince the reader about his points?

4. Tell how much this appeal convinced or did not convince you to accept his points in the two paragraphs.

Logical Appeal Station

1. Explain the passage in your own words by writing one or two sentences about what it says.

2. What are the steps of Swift's logic that he shows in this example? Explain his train of thought.

3. How does Swift use logic to try to convince the reader about his points in this example?

4. Tell how much this appeal convinced or did not convince you to accept his points in this example.