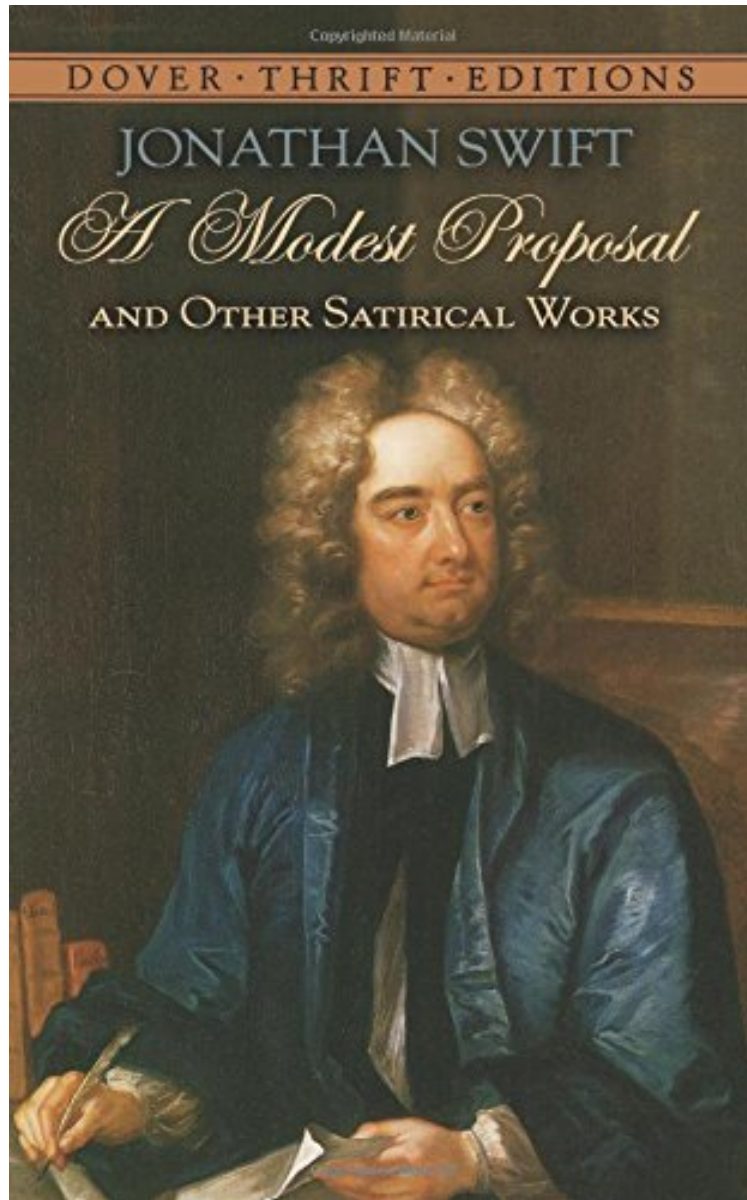


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A Modest Proposal and Other Satirical Works (Dover Thrift Editions)

Jonathan Swift

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Jonathan Swift : A Modest Proposal and Other Satirical Works (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Modest Proposal and Other Satirical Works (Dover Thrift Editions):

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The originality, concentrated power and "fierce indignation" of his satirical writing have earned Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) a reputation as the greatest prose satirist in English language. *Gulliver's Travels* is, of course, his world-renowned masterpiece in the genre; however, Swift wrote other, shorter works that also offer excellent evidence of his inspired lampoonery. Perhaps the most famous of these is "A Modest Proposal," in which he straight-facedly suggests that Ireland could solve its hunger problems by using its children for food. Also included in this collection are "The Battle of the Books," "A Meditation upon a Broomstick," "A Discourse Concerning the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit," and "An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity in England." This inexpensive edition will certainly be welcomed by teachers and students of English literature, but its appeal extends to any reader who delights in watching a master satirist wield words as weapons.

.com If you read this in high school (as many of us did), it may have shocked you--not bad for a tract written in 1729. It wouldn't be fair to those of you who haven't come across *A Modest Proposal* to reveal the particulars of the piece; suffice it to say that *Saturday Night Live* has nothing on Jonathan Swift! Swift's discussion of what Great Britain should do for his native impoverished Ireland is a model of political satire, absolutely consistent in tone and even now still sparkling in its clarity. The balance between, on the one hand, the utter seriousness of the matter in question and, on the other, the outrageousness of the remedy suggested is exquisite. *A Modest Proposal* is short and comes bound in this edition with several of Swift's other writings. This volume is an excellent introduction to the author of *Gulliver's Travels* (itself a masterwork) and to one of the world's premier satirical minds. What are you waiting for? --Michael Gerber