

Name _____

Honors English 12

Period 8

Date: _____

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift

Discussion Guide— Part 1

1. (Page 612) Verbal irony is saying the opposite of what is meant. Explain why the title and subtitle of Swift's work are examples of verbal irony.
2. (Page 613) Conclude, on the basis of the opening paragraph, what issues are of concern to the speaker.
3. (Page 614) Identify phrases on this page that seem to express compassion.
4. (Page 614) Active Reading: What tone is conveyed by the speaker's mathematical calculations?
5. (Page 615) Conclude, on the basis of the advice of the "American acquaintance," what the stereotype of Americans might have been among the British in 1729.
6. (Page 615) Active Reading: What is your reaction to the speaker's statement about "landlords, who . . . have already devoured most of the parents"?
7. (Page 616) What inferences can you make about the intensity of Swift's feelings against the landowners in Ireland based on the graphic passage that ends the first section of the essay?