

Name _____
Honors English 12

Period 8
Date: _____

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift

Discussion Guide— Part 2

1. (Page 617) Who does the speaker call the enemy here? Whom does he praise? Does Swift agree with what he is saying? Who is really being criticized here?
2. (Page 617) What is Swift satirizing in the phrase “the goods being entirely of our own growth and manufacture”?
3. (Page 618) Discuss the irony of the speaker’s claim that raising babies for food would make mothers more caring and husbands fonder of their wives. What real prejudice, satirized here by Swift, underlies the obviously tongue-in-cheek claim?
4. (Page 618) Active Reading: What effect is the speaker trying to create by listing the advantages of the proposal?
5. (Page 618) What inferences can you make from the speaker’s comment that the carcasses of Irish children would be sold cheaper in “the rest of the kingdom” (that is, in England).
6. (Page 619) Active Reading: What might be the speaker’s source for the “other expedients” he lists?