**Satire and “What About Bob”**



**Satire**: A literary manner which blends a critical attitude with humor and wit to the end (purpose) that human institutions/ humanity may be improved by provoking or preventing change. A **satirist** is one who satirizes.

**Horatian Satire**: a comedy of manners, polite, gentle, smiling, aims to correct by gentle and broadly sympathetic laughter

**Juvenalian Satire**: biting, bitter, angry; it points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of men and institutions.

Here are some of the most commonly used devices to create satire.

1. **Caricature** – A representation in which the subject’s distinctive features or peculiarities are deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic or grotesques effect.

2. **Hyperbole** – A figure of speech using deliberate exaggeration or overstatement. Hyperbole can often produce irony at the same time.

3. **Understatement** – The ironic minimizing of fact, understatement presents something as less significant than it is. Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole.

4**. Irony** – The contrast between what is stated explicitly and what is really meant.

5. **Sarcasm** – Sarcasm involves language that is meant to hurt or ridicule someone or something. It may use irony as a device but not all ironic statements are sarcastic.

6. **Allusion** – A direct or indirect reference to something that is commonly known such as a book, myth, place, work of art or event. Allusions can be historical, literary, religious, or mythical.

7. **Juxtaposition** – Placing dissimilar items, descriptions or ideas close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.

8. **Wit -** Is a form of intellectual humor. A wit is someone skilled in making/writing witty remarks. Forms of wit include: the quip and the repartee. **“Ambrose Bierce styled himself a wit, not a humorist, emphasizing the sardonic and cutting intent of his newspaper columns and stories. ‘Humor is tolerant, tender … its ridicule caresses. Wit stabs, begs pardon — and turns the weapon in the wound.’” ~ Drew Gilpin Faust**

Now we will watch the movie *What About Bob*. Flip your paper over and record as many examples of each of the elements of satire as you can. We will compare our examples at the end of the movie.

**Caricature (at least 2)**

**Hyperbole (at least 3)**

**Understatement (at least 3)**

**Irony (at least 2)**

**Sarcasm (at least 1)**

**Allusion (at least 2)**

**Juxtaposition (at least 2)**

**Wit**