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By Ehren Plugetfuder, Oregon State University Associate Professor of Rhetoric 11 September 2023 What is a parody? Well, a good definition is that a parody is a creative work that is created in order to imitate, comment on, critique, and / or mock its subject. It's usually, but not always, meant to be funny - at least a little bit. And the subject of a parody is often another work of art, a book or a writing style, or a real-life person. [In the video, Dr. Plugetfuder here adopts the persona of a pretentious English professor] According to Aristotle, in his Poetics, chapter 2, Hegemon of Thasos was the inventor of parodies. Though little of this playwright's works have survived until today, Aristotle claims he changed the wording in well-known poems in order to create a humorous effect, thereby turning the sublime into the ridiculous. The word "parody" itself comes from the Greek parodia, which means "a burlesque song or poem." "Para" of course means "beside" and "oide" means "song" or "ode," which are elaborate poems that the Greeks in particular. Sometimes he makes fun of an artist, and sometimes he makes fun of a song. One thing to note is that parody is distinct from both pastiche and satire. A pastiche is a work of art, and again it can be a form of literature, theatre, film, etc., but what makes pastiche different is that authors of pastiche attempt to imitate the style or character of other artists, sometimes not that successfully. Creators of pastiche try to pay homage to an original work and can reproduce features of that art in a way that signals to their audience that they are trying to imitate, though not directly copy, that earlier work. In architecture, the word "neo" is often used to suggest that a particular style is done in homage, so neo-classical architecture is often a pastiche of Greek and Roman buildings and styles. [In the video, Dr. Plugetfuder returns here the persona of a pretentious English professor] Pastiche comes from the vulgar Latin "pastimium," which means "composed of paste," and is related to pate and pasta, among other words. Pate, is of course made from grain. [In the video, Dr. Plugetfuder returns to normal] Whoops. Slipped back again into that English professor. There was I. Oh yeah, was just about to mention the difference between parody and satire. The difference is that satire, while also supposed to be funny, often has a larger purpose. Both parody and satire will frequently make fun of something, but satire doesn't take a specific art form, genre, or cultural belief, or a social movement, and in doing so hope to critique society more generally. For example, The Daily Show uses loads of satire in its stories, and most often critiques cultural issues more generally and there are lots more examples - some of which engage both parody and satire at once. Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey is a satire of middle-class appreciation of gothic novels, and a critique of male-dominated politics and masculine standards of literary taste, but also a parody of Ann Radcliffe's The Mysteries of Udolpho. Ben H. Winters' Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters, on the other hand, is a parody of Sense and Sensibility. Often, parody is a good defense against copyright infringement, at least in the US, because while parodies can copy some of the idea of an original work of art, they also, crucially, comment upon that same work, thus transforming it and making something new. Parodies can also be tools that marginalized or oppressed groups can use to selectively appropriate or imitate aspects of other cultures. A great example of these elements is Alice Randall's novel The Wind Done Gone, which is a parody of Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind, but told from the perspective of an enslaved person named Cynara who has been recently freed, instead of Scarlett O'Hara, the Southern white woman and part of the slave-owning family in the novel. The estate of Margaret Mitchell sued Alice Randall and her publishing company, for copyright violation. The case was settled, but The Wind Done Gone is clearly a clever parody of Gone with the Wind, and not one that pleases too many fans of the original. I should note, though, that in some countries, parodies are not protected by law, and authors can face fines or imprisonment for creating them. In general, though, parodies are clever ways to imitate, make fun of, and comment upon earlier works. What kinds of parodies can you think of? What specific thing do they make fun of? And, if you're parodying something, how are they using that to comment on? MLA Citation: Plugetfuder, Ehren. "What is a Parody?" Oregon State University, 11 Sept. 2023, Oregon State University, accessed [insert date]. Interestingly, the full series of the Oregon State Guide to English Literary Terms A parody is an imitation of the style of something that is deliberately exaggerated to create a comedic effect. Common parodies include imitations of an artist, musician, or writer's style, or even a type, mode or television genre. The intent of parody is for the audience to recognize the source or original material and find its excessive imitation comical.Use of Parody in LiteratureWriters use parody to call attention to or stress noticeable features of a character, place, storyline, etc., by mimicking it. Parody is usually featured in literature to create a humorous effect, with the understanding that the reader will find the exaggerated imitation to be comedic. As a literary device, parody is typically used with negative intent such as to magnify a weakness of someone or the overuse of something.Parody Examples in Everyday LifeIn our daily watching of television, we may see extremely hilarious examples of parody in shows that blend parody and satire. Examples like The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, and The Larry Sanders Show are renowned for mimicking famous political personalities, and this allows them to target what they think are unintelligent political and social viewpoints.Example #2: Mimicking MoviesParody has entered our day-to-day life through hilarious parody movies that mimic famous blockbusters. For instance, the movie Vampire Sucks parodies and pokes fun at the blockbuster Twilight series, which was a film adaptation of Stephanie Meyer's novel Twilight.Examples of Parody in LiteratureWilliam Shakespeare wrote Sonnet 130 in parody of traditional love poems common in his day. He presents an anti-love poem theme in a manner of a love poem, mocking the exaggerated comparisons they made: 'My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun,Coral is far more red than her lips' red;If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.I have seen roses damasked, red and white,But no such roses see I in her cheeks.;...'Unlike a love-poem goddess, his mistress does not have eyes like the sun, she does not have red lips, nor does she have a white complexion. Her cheeks do not have a rosy color, and her hair is not as silky smooth. All the cliché qualities are missing in his mistress. Such a description allows Shakespeare to use fun to poke the low people who looked such impossible ideal. Example #2: Don Quixote (By Miguel de Cervantes)Don Quixote was written by Miguel de Cervantes. The novel tells the story of a man who is obsessed with chivalric romances and decides to become a knight. He believes that the world is full of adventures and that he must save the world. Therefore, he goes on a journey to become a knight. The adventure starts as an imitation of the real romances but of course, in a hilarious manner.We laugh at how Quixote was bestword knighthood in his battle with the giants (windmills). We enjoy how the knight helps the Christian king against the army of a Moorish monarch [herd of sheep]. These and the rest of the incidents of the novel are written in the style of Spanish romances of the 16th century to mock the idealism of knights in the contemporary romances.Example #3: Gulliver's Travels (By Jonathan Swift)Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels is a parody of travel narratives, as well as a satire on contemporary England. As the empire of England spread to far off lands, it became a center of navigation and exploration. Adventure and travel narratives telling stories of strange lands became popular.Example #4: Robinson Crusoe (By Daniel Defoe)Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe was a travel narrative. Swift adopted a similar mode to describe Gulliver's travels to the strange land of Lilliput, and other such places where he meets "Lilliputians," and the giant "Brobdingnagians." He also meets other strange creatures like "Laputians" and "Houyhnhnms," and the "Yahoos". The parody for Swift was intended as a satire on English society.Function of ParodyParody is a kind of comedy that imitates and mocks individuals or a piece of work. However, when it mingles with satire, it makes satire more pointed and effective. Most importantly, a parody appeals to the reader's sense of humor. He enjoys the writer poking fun at the set ideals of society, and becomes aware of the lighter side of an otherwise serious state of affairs. Thus, parody adds spice to a piece of literature that keeps the readers interested. Have you ever heard of the contrast between the Soviet Union, taking a satirical approach to parody, and the United States, which is more of a direct approach to parody? The Soviet Union, for example, used to parody the United States in its cartoons, and the United States, in turn, used to parody the Soviet Union in its cartoons. The main purpose of parody are: 1. Entertainment: Parodies often use humor to entertain audiences by poking fun at the original work, making them laugh or enjoy the absurdity of the exaggeration. 2. Satire: Parody can be used as a form of satire, which is a way to criticize or comment on social, political, or cultural issues through the use of humor, irony, and exaggeration. 3. Social commentary: Parodies can provide an opportunity for social commentary, as they often highlight certain aspects of society or culture that the creator finds troubling or worth discussing. 4. Creative expression: Parody allows artists and writers to engage with existing works and styles in a unique and creative way, often challenging the audience's preconceived notions about the original work or style. 5. Tribute: In some cases, parodies can serve as a form of homage or tribute to the original work or author, showcasing their admiration for the source material, while also adding their own twist to it. Parody involves the imitation and exaggeration of certain aspects of a work, often with the intent of criticism or humor. There are several key elements that make up a successful parody. 1. Familiarity: A parody requires the audience to be familiar with the original work being parodied. This familiarity allows them to recognize the humorous or critical commentary being made by the parody. 2. Exaggeration: Parodies often exaggerate specific aspects of the original work to highlight its flaws or to create humor. This can include exaggerating character traits, language, or situations. 3. Irony: A key component of parody is the use of irony – saying the opposite of what is meant or presenting something in a way that highlights its absurdity. This often involves taking the original work's tone, style, or message and presenting it in a twisted or exaggerated manner. 4. Satire or Humor: Parodies generally use satire or humor to critique the original work or make light of its subject matter. This can involve poking fun at the work's flaws, challenging its core beliefs, or simply creating a humorous contrast between the original and the parody. 5. Commentary: Parodies often use humor to comment on or critique the original work, its creator, or the society it represents. This can be done through direct criticism, subtle innuendo, or by highlighting the absurdity of the original work's ideas or actions. Parody is a form of satire that imitates another work of art, literature, or an author's style with the purpose of creating comic effect. By using humorous exaggeration and ridicule, parody helps to highlight the limitations or weaknesses of the original work. Numerous authors have made their mark in the world of parody, showcasing their wit and creativity across various genres and styles. Some notable authors of parody include: Miguel de Cervantes - Known for his masterpiece "Don Quixote," Cervantes satirized chivalric romances in this classic work. Jonathan Swift - His famous work "Gulliver's Travels" is a parody of travel narratives, offering a biting satire on human nature and society. Terry Pratchett - "The Late British author's "Discworld" series is a delightful parody of fantasy literature and includes incisive social and political commentary. Douglas Adams - "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," Adams' humorous science fiction series, parodies various aspects of the genre while exploring existential themes. P. G. Wodehouse - Best known for his Jeeves and Wooster stories, Wodehouse employed parody to lampoon British high society and its conventions. George Orwell - In "Animal Farm," Orwell uses parody in the form of an allegorical fable to critique the political climate of his era. Thomas Love Peacock - This 19th-century author's novels, such as "Nightmare Abbey" and "Crotchet Castle," are satirical parodies of the Romantic movement in literature. Throughout the history of literature, numerous works have employed parody to entertain and comment on various aspects of society and culture. Here are some classical examples of parody in literature: The Frogs is an ancient Greek comedy written by the playwright Aristophanes. It was first performed in 405 BC at the Lenaia festival in Athens. The play is a parody that combines elements of myth, satire, and political commentary. The Frogs not only parodies the conventions of Greek tragedy but also offers a commentary on the political, cultural, and social issues of the time. The play serves as a critique of Athenian society's fixation on novelty and entertainment at the expense of substance and moral guidance. "Don Quixote" is a novel written by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes, published in two parts in 1605 and 1615. The story is considered one of the most influential works of fiction in world literature and is widely regarded as the first modern novel. It is a parody that satirizes the popular chivalric romance literature of Cervantes' time, as well as commenting on various aspects of Spanish society, culture, and human nature. The plot of "Don Quixote" follows the adventures of Alonso Quixano, an elderly gentleman who becomes obsessed with the chivalric romances he has been reading. Convinced that he is meant to revive chivalry and protect the helpless, Quixano adopts the name "Don Quixote," arms himself with a rusty lance and sword, and sets out on a series of adventures with his loyal squire, Sancho Panza. Gulliver's Travels is a satirical novel written by Anglo-Irish author Jonathan Swift, first published in 1726. The full title of the work is "Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, in Four Parts, by Lemuel Gulliver, First a Surgeon, and then a Captain of Several Ships." The novel is both a parody of popular travel literature of the time and a biting social and political satire aimed at the follies and vices of humanity. The story follows the adventures of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon who embarks on a series of voyages to fantastical lands inhabited by various strange creatures and societies. The novel is divided into four parts, each detailing Gulliver's encounters with different civilizations. Parody has long been a popular form of expression in music, with artists using humor and satire to comment on various aspects of society, culture, or other musical works. Here are some examples of parody in music: "Weird Al" Yankovic is an American singer-songwriter, musician, and comedian known for his humorous parodies of popular songs and music styles. Born Alfred Matthew Yankovic on October 23, 1959, he rose to fame in the 1980s and has since built a successful career, enduring career of parodying popular music. Yankovic's parodies typically involve taking a popular song and creating a humorous version that often pokes fun at the original song's lyrics, melody, and cultural references. Some of his most famous and well-known parodies include: "Eat It" (a parody of Michael Jackson's "Beat It"), "Lima" (a parody of Madonna's "Like a Virgin"), "Smile" (a parody of The Beatles' "Smile"), and "Guitar" (a parody of Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine"). American comedy trio consisting of Akiva Schaffer, Andy Samberg, and Jorma Taccone. They gained fame in the mid-2000s through their digital shorts on the television show "Saturday Night Live" (SNL), where they showcased their talent for creating humorous and often absurd music videos that parody various aspects of popular culture, music genres, and social conventions. The Lonely Island's parodies often take the form of satirical songs and music videos that lampoon a wide range of topics, such as hip-hop culture, celebrity lifestyles, and societal expectations. Flight of the Conchords is a New Zealand comedy duo consisting of musicians Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement. They gained fame in the mid-2000s with their unique blend of music and comedy, which often features humorous and satirical songs that parody various aspects of popular culture, music genres, and social conventions. Their act combines live performances, television, and recordings, showcasing their talent for creating witty and entertaining musical parodies. Flight of the Conchords' parodies often take the form of songs that lampoon a wide range of topics, such as relationships, human interactions, and different music styles. Their humor is characterized by clever lyrics, catchy melodies, and a deadpan delivery, creating a distinct and engaging approach to satire and parody. They often mimic specific music styles or artists while adding their own comedic twist to the lyrics and performances. Some of their most famous and popular parodies include: The Most Beautiful Girl (In the Room): A humorous and awkward love song that parodies the over-the-top romantic ballads, with lyrics full of backhanded compliments and underwhelming promises of affection. 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Here are some examples of parody in films: Airplane! is an American comedy film directed and written by Jim Abrahams, David Zucker, and Jerry Zucker. The film is a parody of the disaster movie genre, specifically targeting the conventions of 1970s disaster films. It features a series of absurd and over-the-top situations, such as a man in a suit crashing into a plane, a man in a suit crashing into a plane, and a man in a suit crashing into a plane. The film revolves around Ted Striker, a traumatized former fighter pilot who must overcome his fear of flying to safely land a passenger plane after the flight crew and passengers suffer from food poisoning. Along the way, the film lampoons various aspects of air travel, disaster movie scenarios, and other pop culture references. Spaceballs (1987) is an American science fiction comedy film directed, co-written, and produced by Mel Brooks, who also stars in the film. The movie serves as a parody of the science fiction genre, particularly the "Star Wars" franchise, which was a major cultural phenomenon at the time. It takes aim at various aspects of the original "Star Wars" trilogy, as well as other popular science fiction films such as "Star Trek," "Alien," and "Planet of the Apes." The film follows the adventures of Lone Starr, a Han Solo-like character, and his sidekick Barf, a Chewbacca-like half-man, half-dog, as they attempt to rescue Princess Vespa and her droid, Dot Matrix, from the evil Dark Helmet and the ludicrously named villain, President Skroob. Robin Hood: Men in Tights is an American comedy film directed, produced, and co-written by Mel Brooks, who also has a supporting role in the movie. The film is a parody of the Robin Hood legend and serves as a spoof of previous film adaptations, particularly the 1991 film "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" starring Kevin Costner. The plot follows the adventures of Robin Hood, played by Cary Elwes, as he returns to England from the Crusades, only to find that his family's land has been confiscated by the evil Prince John. Robin forms a band of Merry Men to fight against Prince John's tyranny, win the heart of Maid Marian, and restore King Richard to the throne. Throughout the film, Mel Brooks lampoons various conventions, tropes, and clichés found in traditional Robin Hood stories and their film adaptations. Parody is a popular form of humor in television shows and skits, with many series and sketches satirizing various aspects of culture, politics, and entertainment. Here are some examples of parody in TV shows and sketches: Saturday Night Live (SNL) is a famous American late-night comedy sketch show created by Lorne Michaels and developed by Michaels and head writer Dick Cavalli. The show has a long history of parodying political figures, from presidents and candidates to other prominent politicians. The show often uses impersonations and exaggerated caricatures to poke fun at politicians' mannerisms, speech patterns, and public personas. 2. Pop culture parody: The show frequently creates sketches that lampoon popular movies, television shows, celebrities, and other aspects of popular culture. SNL's writers and performers use humor to highlight absurdities or comment on various aspects of the entertainment industry. 3. Commercial parodies: SNL often produces fake commercials that mock advertising tropes, products, and consumer culture. These sketches often exaggerate and poke fun at the lengths companies will go to market their products and the sometimes ridiculous nature of the products themselves. 4. News satire: The show's recurring "Weekend Update" segment parodies the format of television news programs, with cast members presenting humorous takes on current events and headlines in the guise of news anchors. The Simpsons is an American animated television series created by Matt Groening that first premiered on the Fox network in 1989. The show follows the lives of the Simpson family—Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie—and their interactions with various characters in the fictional town of Springfield. Throughout its long run, The Simpsons has used parody to explore a wide range of topics, including: Family life and sitcoms: At its core, it parodies the traditional family sitcom, subverting common tropes and presenting a more dysfunctional and relatable family dynamic. The show uses humor to explore the challenges and absurdities of everyday life and family relationships. Popular entertainment: It has parodied countless movies, television shows, and other aspects of popular culture. These parodies often involve Springfield's inhabitants re-enacting famous scenes, mimicking celebrity behavior, or providing a humorous perspective on the original works. Politics and current events: The show frequently satirizes political figures and events, providing commentary on various aspects of American and international politics. From presidential elections to global conflicts, it uses humor to shed light on political issues and the state of the world. Social issues and trends: The show often tackles social issues and cultural trends through parody, using the residents of Springfield to highlight the absurdity or implications of various phenomena. From environmentalism to consumer culture, the show uses humor to provide insight into the human condition. Institutions and organizations: The show parodies various institutions and organizations, such as the media, the education system, and corporations, often depicting them in an exaggerated or satirical manner to highlight their flaws and shortcomings. South Park is an American animated television series created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone that first premiered on Comedy Central in 1997. 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which a chivalrous knight goes on a heroic quest, often to win the heart of an impossibly beautiful maiden. The protagonist of Cervantes novel, Don Quixote de la Mancha, however, is a madman who battles with windmills he thinks are giants, confuse peasants for princesses, and gets himself into all sorts of absurd situations because he can't tell the difference between his fantasy world of knights and chivalry and the real world in which he lives. Don Quixote is a parody because it mocks the sentimental and overblown style of the romance, and exposes the genre's conventions. For instance, when Don Quixote mistakes an inn for a castle, the knight (along with the whole genre of medieval romance) is being cast as a subject of mockery. And since whatever our adventurer thought, saw, or imagined seemed to him to be as it was in the books he'd read, as soon as he saw the inn he took it for a castle with its four towers and their spires of shining silver. Parody in Film and Television Parody films and parody television shows are a staple of Western comedy culture. The film parody relies, as most parodies do, on the audience's expectations. The director Mel Brooks, a master parodist, spoofed the genre of monster movies with his film Young Frankenstein (1974), the entire Western film genre with Blazing Saddles (1974), and the Star Wars franchise with Space Balls (1987). More recently, there's been a string of film franchises that spoof more contemporary genres, such as Scary Movie, which absurdly tweaks scenes from famous horror movies in order to highlight the audience's familiarity with the plot devices that constitute the genre. The "Weekend Update" portion of Saturday Night Live, meanwhile, mocks the look and structure of primetime news shows, making a parody of television broadcast networks themselves. More generally, nearly every sketch comedy show on television includes parodies of famous politicians and cultural figures as a part of the entertainment. Why Do Writers Choose to Write Parodies? Writers can choose to write parodies for light-hearted reasons or because they want to use them to make more pointed satirical commentary. Regardless, parody is always meant to be entertaining. A parody of a public persona—like a politician, for example—might serve to ridicule his personality, or hold him to account for criminal behavior, but the audience is still meant to laugh at the parody. A parody of a great writer, on the other hand, might exist purely to pay homage to his style, providing no social commentary at all—but again, the reader is meant to find it amusing or entertaining when they read a passage that imitates a work they're familiar with. Enjoyment of the parody signals that the audience recognizes the reference, while also recognizing the gap between the source material and the parody version. Whether a parody serves to ridicule a facet of pop culture, expose the falsehoods of a social institution, pay homage to a great artist, or simply poke fun with a pitch-perfect spoof, the parody is an important device that entertains the audience by imitating something familiar from culture and putting a new spin on it. Other Helpful Parody Resources

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- aceite de manzanilla price philippines
- five fundamental steps in the financial planning process
 - how to hack car parking multiplayer game
- zemi
- kinexakebe