

## CONCLUSIONS

In this essay Swift refers that:

**PARAGRAPH 1-** Anyone who walks in Dublin or any visitor of Ireland can see women with their children poorly dressed, begging and importuning every passenger. He observes that these women cannot work because they have to look after their children, who, however, are doomed to a miserable or criminal life.

**PARAGRAPH 2** - He therefore states that the one who is able to find a solution to this problem would deserve a statue as a preserver of the Nation.

**PARAGRAPH 3** - Then Swift humbly advances his proposal which could also extend to all poor children, rather than beggars only.

**PARAGRAPH 4** - A child is best suited to serve as the solution to the problem at one year, because until that age a child can be fed with little expense.

After that time, besides freeing his parents or the Parish from the burden of caring for these children, the narrator anticipates that a child could contribute to people's nourishment and clothing

**PARAGRAPH 5** - The author states that begging mothers' children are often born outside marriage and identifies "another great advantage" of the scheme in preventing voluntary abortions

**PARAGRAPH 6** - An American scientist has informed the author of the nutritional qualities of a one-year-old child and thus he computes that of the 120,000 children annually born in Dublin, only 20,000 should be allowed to survive, in a ratio 1 male against 4 females, to ensure procreation.

**PARAGRAPH 7** - The author now reveals his "modest proposal" as an encouragement to cannibalism of moneyless children.

**PARAGRAPH 9** - According to the information given by an eminent French Physician, Swift also computes that Lent is the most fertile time for Roman Catholic parents, thanks to their habit of eating fish.

**PARAGRAPH 10** - Nine months after Lent, or at most one year the author's scheme would be accomplished, with the "collateral advantage" of lessening the number of Roman Catholics.

## COMPREHENSION

The author is of Protestant faith and belongs to the Irish upper class; by expressing their prejudices against the poor Irish Catholic classes, he appeals to the rich of both Irish and English Protestants as the main beneficiaries of his plan.

## STYLE ANALYSIS

Swift uses three main stylistic devices, which are associated with 3 different colours in the extract:

- the tone of a cold hearted and hyper abstract essayist quoting figures and reliable sources
- emphasis on institutions and references to patriotism and class consciousness
- expressions of humility and moralizing attitude

These narrative approaches contribute to create a strong contradiction between the scientific and confident form of the essay and the appalling and unacceptable suggestion of its content.

The essay progresses through a series of surprises that first shocks and disgusts the reader and then causes him to think critically not only about policies, but also about motivations and values.