

Understanding Misunderstanding by Jonny Berliner and Abigail Williams

When we choose to read the news, we have to choose which news to use,
And when we choose which blogs to read there is a need to judge indeed,
Which are doubtful, which more certain, that's because just any person,
Has the power to get published whether good total rubbish,
Is this a quirk of modern day,
Resulting from our techy way?
The answer's a resounding No!
It's not a new phenomenon, it happened long ago.

Chorus

There's so much misunderstanding,
Fake news spread globally,
How do you know what to think,
When the web's got no integrity?
It's alright, hold tight,
There's an end in sight coming soon you'll see,
You can understand misunderstanding
With satire from the 18th century

There was a lady, Mary Toft, who was in need of money,
She sold a lie convincingly, by giving birth to bunnies,
The news was spread in Grub street print, journalism at its worst,
Fake news is old news now, Mary got there first.

And now the story of Defoe, who wrote with wit and candour,
Well known for Flanders and Crusoe, but also propaganda.
His pamphlet on the shortest way, got the government quite vexed,
They put him in the pillory but took him out of context.

Even though Defoe had not been read as ironic,
Swift's popular satire became somewhat iconic,
He claimed that starving Irish folks should boil up their kin,
Had deliberate misreading now become a thing?

So ever since we learned to read, we've always got confused,
Especially when new media appear to give us more to choose,
So, in these modern times do we really need such new tricks,
Or is the answer to the internet just old school hermeneutics.