

CARTOON ANALYSIS – TELLING A STORY

Dr Susan Bliss

Since the mid-nineteenth century cartoons have been used to denote satirical or humorous illustrations in newspapers and magazines. Cartoons address current geographical issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, human rights abuses and migration.

The power of the cartoon lies in its ability to present complex issues in a simplified form. However a person's interpretation of a cartoon is coloured by their cultural background and socio-political experience. Cartoons develop critical thinking, initiate classroom discussion and debate, and enable students to draw their own cartoons on a selected geographical issue

Right: A 19th Century cartoon depicting Napoleon with Satan after burning Moscow. Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Napoleon_with_Satan_after_burning_Moscow_%2819th_century%29.png



Elements of cartoons

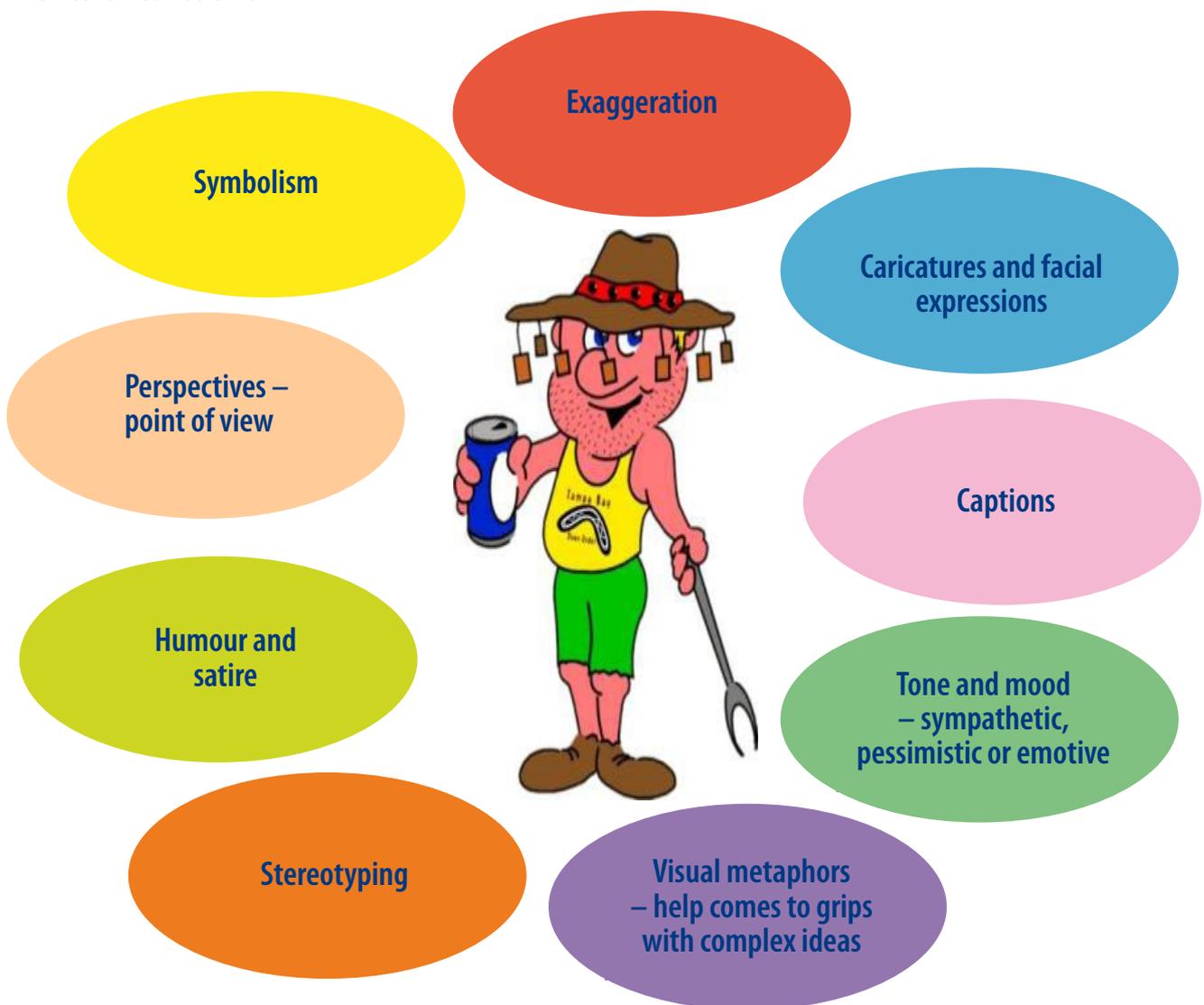


Figure in middle <http://www.convictcreations.com/research/images/aussie.jpg>

CARTOON ANALYSIS – TELLING A STORY

Context – political/social.
Workers receive low wages, long hours and experience dangerous working conditions

Perspective – sympathy towards the workers and critical of large corporations and their labour practices .

Stereotyping – sweatshops focus on Indonesia a developing country but the practice also occurs in developed countries

Mood
– sympathetic, pessimistic, emotive

Satire – to ridicule the global practice of sweatshops that abuse human rights.

Visual metaphors
– “Just Do It”
“Indonesia”
“Sweatshops” “Fair Work Conditions”

Facial expression
– anger of boss, fear of workers, squashed face of activist

Geography THINGS THAT MATTER: HUMAN RIGHTS

MEANWHILE, IN A SWEATSHOP SOMEWHERE IN INDONESIA.....



Exaggeration – larger sweatshop owner indicating power compared to smaller sweatshop workers – wealth versus poverty; TNCs versus individual rights. Nike is not the only corporation involved in the practice

Symbolism: four Nike swoosh's – on sweatshop owner and shoes

Caricatures
– sweatshop owner, subservient sweatshop workers, activist

Interpreting cartoons

Answer the following questions:

- What information does the poster shown above convey?
- What perspective is conveyed in the poster?
- How can active citizens make a difference?

Sources <http://nicholsoncartoons.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/2000-01-01-human-rights-10.jpg> and <http://www.cursions.com.au/school-resources/3221//2007-AGTA-%22Things-That-Matter%22-Geography-Posters>

Landforms, landscapes and water

Exercise – The Mighty Snowy

- What are the visual metaphors and symbols
- Does the cartoon have a caption
- Explain the point of view advertised by the cartoonist
- Discuss how landforms and landscapes have been changed by humans
- Research the Mighty Snowy and how sustainable management strategies could improve water resources



Source: <http://nicholsoncartoons.com.au/environment-05.html>

Cartoon template

What is the cartoon title? What is the name of cartoonist? What is the date of the cartoon? What was the source? Website, newspaper, journal	
What is the event or issue that inspired the cartoon? Who is portrayed in the cartoon? How are the characters portrayed? Facial expressions, body language, dress and what they hold Are there symbols in the cartoon? What are they and what do they represent? Are there captions, speech bubbles, labelling and details to explain the cartoon? How did the words in the cartoon help you clarify the meaning of the cartoon?	
What is the cartoonist's opinion about the topic portrayed in the cartoon? What was the desired effect of the cartoon? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • influence others way of thought • project "cartoonists" opinion or bias • influence or lead public opinion • highlight or simplify the significance of an event Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's opinion? Why?	
Write one sentence describing your thoughts on the cartoon	
What special interest groups would agree or disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?	

ICT

- Cartoon Stock – <http://www.cartoonstock.com>
 Cartoon Web – <http://cartoonweb.com>
 Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonists index – <http://cagle.slate.msn.com>
 New Zealand Cartoon Galley – <http://www.nzcartoons.com.nz>
 News Limited Cartoons – <http://www.news.com.au/cartoons>
 Nicholson's Cartoons – <http://www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au>
 PoliticalCartoon.com – <http://www.politicalcartoons.com>
 The Age newspaper – <http://www.theage.com.au/cartoons/>
 The Guardian newspaper – <http://www.guardian.co.uk/cartoons>
 The Sydney Morning Herald – <http://www.smh.com.au/cartoons>
 World's newspapers accessed via: <http://www.world-newspapers.com>



"Autumn melancholy. — Leaf-fall", a political cartoon by Theodorescu-Sion published in Furnica, the Romanian satirical magazine on 16 October 1908. Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ion_Theodorescu-Sion_-_Melancolie_de_toamn%C4%83._%E2%80%94_C%C4%83derea_frunzelor,_Furnica,_16_oct_1908.JPG