

Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

9/11 revisited

When cartoons aren't meant to be funny

Fully half of the nation's editorial cartoonists drew the same cartoon on the same day*, September 11, 2001. A weeping Statue of Liberty was the most common image on newspaper editorial pages the day after the terrorists struck the World Trade Center in New York. The struggle to define a moment as terrible as 9/11 is to struggle with emotions like shock, fear, hatred, and sorrow. Tragedy, death and revenge are themes you don't usually associate with a cartoon. But editorial cartoonists don't always use humor to deal with issues that deeply affect us.

Get out your newspaper

In the aftermath of the attack, the nation went from mourning the victims to looking to avenge their deaths. Patriotism surged, jingoism flourished and cartoonists took note. How will your local cartoonist mark this anniversary of 9/11?



Courtesy Daryl Cagle / Slate.com

Using the Cartoon

Evaluation Form (available from the Newspapers in Education Website) analyze the cartoon in terms of symbolism, message and theme.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

<http://pc99.detnews.com/aaec/>

Cartoon Evaluation Form

<http://nieonline.com/cftc/pdfs/eval.pdf>

Attack on America (Collection of 9/11 Editorial Cartoons)

<http://cagle.slate.msn.com/news/attack/main.asp>

*Lady Liberty's Horror

(Collection of 9/11 Editorial Cartoons with Liberty theme)

<http://cagle.slate.msn.com/news/Yahtzee/liberty.asp>



Courtesy Mike Lane / The Baltimore Sun

Talking points

Write a short definition for each of the following.

Patriotism _____

 Nationalism _____

 Jingoism _____

Have times changed?

You'll have to read the definitions carefully to see how patriotism, nationalism and jingoism differ. Has the mood of the country changed since the attack? It has only been a short time, but



Courtesy Robert ARIAL / The State

a lot has happened -- the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, unrest in Israel. Is patriotism as strong today as it was in the days after the attack? What about jingoism?