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? 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)
*Lady Liberty’s Horror
(Collection of 9/11 Editorial Cartoons with Liberty theme )

Talking points
Write a short definition for each of the following.
\[\text{Patriotism}\]

\[\text{Nationalism}\]

\[\text{Jingoism}\]

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 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?