

# Cartoons for the Classroom

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



## Fine tooning a candidate's message

It's no time to be wishy-washy when cartoonists are watching. In fact, not taking a stand can be just as bad as taking the wrong stand. Several cartoonists recently lampooned presidential candidate John Kerry for failing to be clear enough on where he stands on issues. Tom Toles points out it's not enough to just call upon the memory of JFK. And Tony Auth's rendition of a turtling Kerry includes a subtle jab at Kerry's campaign theme of being a war veteran. Do you see it? Hint: Check out the turtle shell.



Tom Toles © 2004 The Washington Post.

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## Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon paying particular attention to the symbols used. Explain the message in the toons and how the symbols used contribute to the message. Do any of the symbols require specific background knowledge to be understood?

## Talking points:

In order to appreciate Tom Toles' cartoon jab at presidential candidate John Kerry, you'll need some historical background.

n Kerry's campaign is fond of comparing Kerry with a U.S. president with the same initials, JFK. Which president?

n "Ask Not" is the beginning of a famous line from that president's inauguration speech. What's the rest of the quote?

n "Profile in Porridge" is a play on the title of the 1957 Pulitzer prize-winning book by that president. What's the real title?

## Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Tom Toles at uComics  
<http://www.ucomics.com/tomtoles/>

More by Tony Auth at uComics  
<http://www.ucomics.com/tonyauth/>



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