Between the lines

Studying political cartoons helps provide context to some basic literary concepts:

Satire: A literary work in which human vice or folly is attacked through irony, derision, or wit.

Irony: Something humorous based on contradiction: Words or situations suggesting the opposite of their literal meaning.

Sarcasm: Remarks that mean the opposite of what they seem to say and are intended to mock or deride.

Additional resources

More by Kal
http://cartoons.nytimes.com/

Kal’s website
http://www.kaltoons.com/

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

Sarcasm, irony, satire

Talking points

1. Kal’s predictions provide a different perspective on current events. Using the definitions under Between the Lines, at left, assign each panel a category: Sarcasm, irony or satire.

2. The nuclear powered Trojan Dove Kal has the Iranians build is a literary reference to the Trojan horse mentioned in Homer’s Odyssey and detailed in Virgil’s Latin epic poem The Aeneid. Can you explain the metaphor and how it applies here?

3. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama drew lots of criticism. Explain the serpents attacking Obama and how that image explains his offer to Sarah Palin.