

Cartoons for the Classroom

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

Dissecting a toon: Empowering women



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Courtesy Ann Telnaes

This political cartoon by Pulitzer Prize winner Ann Telnaes provides a great opportunity to improve your visual literacy. The cartoonist's message seems simple enough. But what visual clues does she use to get her message across? Are there different ways to interpret the message? Is this a timely cartoon or a timeless cartoon? In other words, was this cartoon's message valid 10 years ago? Will it be valid 10 years from now? If so, isn't that pretty sad?

Talking points:

If the women in this toon are ready to take over, it means they aren't in charge now. Is this a reasonable assumption? The women certainly seem united in this cartoon. Do women band together more easily than men to solve problems? Name the five most powerful women in the world and explain what makes them powerful. Are they all American? Hmmmmm.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a couple week's worth of political cartoons and other graphics from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Form (available on the NIE website) dissect the toon the same way we did here, explaining the message and symbols used.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://politicalcartoonists.com/>
Ann Telnaes website
<http://anntelnaes.com>

Draw your own conclusions:

In a short sentence, what's the cartoon's message?

Each character is portrayed differently. Why?

Label the different racial /ethnic groups represented.

- African Muslim Jew American
 Arab Asian European Hispanic

What issues are the women blaming the men for?
