

Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Courtesy Jake Fuller / The Gainesville Sun

Drawing a familiar analogy

Between the lines

"Analogy" is defined as a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.

-- From the Cartoon Analysis Guide in the Library of Congress Project: "It's No Laughing Matter"

Additional resources

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

More by Jake Fuller
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/FulleJ/>

It's No Laughing Matter -- Library of Congress
http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/political_cartoon/index.html

Talking points

1. Jake Fuller's cartoon draws a simple, straight-forward analogy between motorcycle riders who don't wear helmets and the Mother Goose rhyme, Humpty Dumpty. Restate the point of this cartoon in one sentence as a simile.
2. Can you make a counter-argument to the cartoon's point?
3. What if the motorcycle rider was a bicycle rider instead. Would you still agree with the analogy? Should all bicycle riders be required to wear helmets if they risk splattering their brains out? Why or why not? What's the difference?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and define which ones use an analogy to make a point.