Name:_____

Vietnam War: Political Cartoon Analysis

Introduction: The strong feelings raised by politics and international issues are subjects for political cartoonists around the world. Cartoons not only reflect the events of the times, but they often offer an interpretation or express a strong opinion about these events as well.

Cartoonists use a variety of methods to convey their ideas. The techniques they use include:

Labels: Cartoonists often identify or name certain things in their cartoons so that it is apparent what the things represent.

Symbolism: Cartoonists may use simple objects to represent larger ideas or concepts.

Analogy: Cartoonists may compare a simple image or concept to a more complex situation in order to help the viewer understand the situation in a different way.

Irony: A cartoonist may express an opinion on a topic by highlighting the difference between the way things are and the way things should be, or are expected to be.

Instructions: Work with your group to analyze the cartoon your teacher has assigned you. You will be asked to identify the techniques each cartoonist used. The following questions will help guide your thinking. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

If the cartoonist used ***labels***, what things in the cartoon are labeled? Why do you think the cartoonist chose to label those things?

If the cartoonist used ***symbolism***, what things in the cartoon are symbols? What do they stand for?

If the cartoonist used an ***analogy***, what two ideas or situations are compared? How does this comparison help the viewer see the complex situation in a different way?

If the cartoonist used ***irony***, what does the cartoonist show about the way things are? How does the cartoonist think things should be?

Name:_____

Political Cartoon # 1

© Copyright 1965. Pierre Bellocq in *The Philadelphia Inquirer.*

"We've got to operate, and fast!"

1. In what year was the political cartoon created? (Hint: Look at the copyright date.)

2. Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

3. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

4. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

   a.

   b.

5. What is the message of the cartoon?

Name:_____

Political Cartoon # 2

Frank Interlandi in *The Los Angeles Times*. Copyright © 1965. Reprinted with permission.

1. In what year was the political cartoon created?

2. Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

3. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

4. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

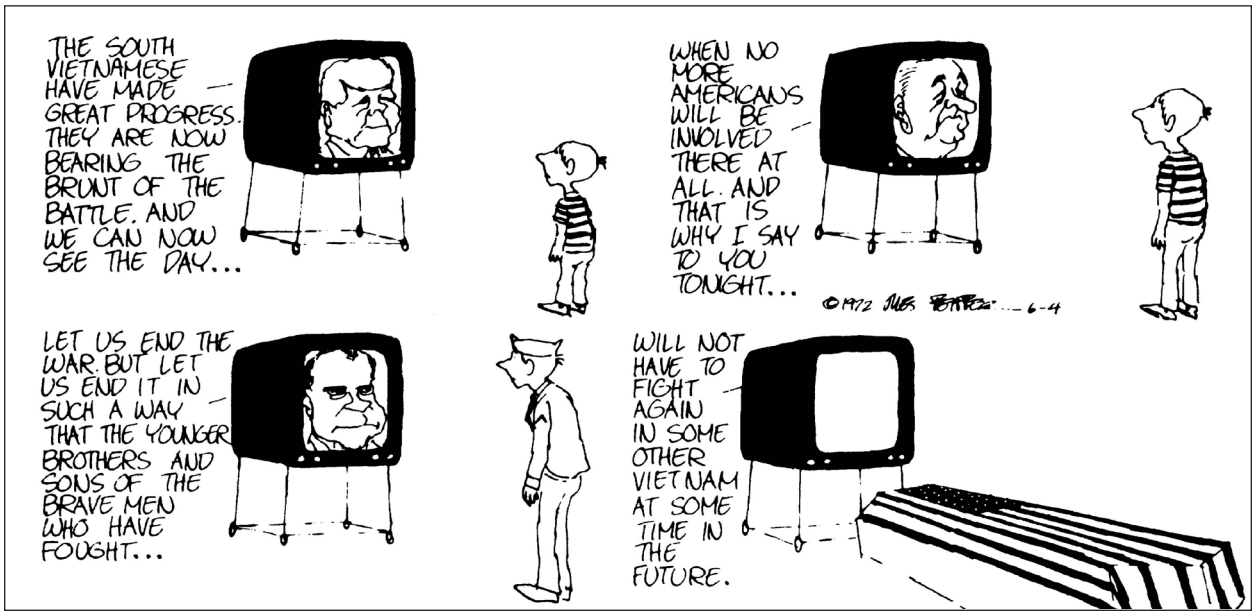
   a.

   b.

5. What is the message of the cartoon?

Name:_____

Political Cartoon # 3



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1. In what year was the political cartoon created?

2. Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

3. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

4. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

   a.

   b.

5. What is the message of the cartoon?

Political Cartoon # 4

Bill Sanders in *The Milwaukee Journal*. Reprinted with permission. Date of publication between 1967-1976.

"What shall I put down as the reason for dying?"

1. In what year (approximately) was the political cartoon created?

2. Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

3. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

4. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

   a.

   b.

5. What is the message of the cartoon?