

Activity 10

Cartoon Controversy

Aim:

To analyse development and justice issues in an accessible way through the use of cartoons and explore the role of political cartoons.

Age:

10+

Time: 30 mins

Materials:

Copies of cartoons (in photopack, from newspapers or online), flipcharts, paper, markers, tape/blu-tac.

What to do:

Step 1: Brainstorm with your group: What cartoons are you familiar with? Are there different types of cartoons? Who are the cartoons aimed at? Are there any hidden messages in cartoons you know?

Step 2: Split the group into smaller groups of 4 and give each a cartoon to read. Give them the following questions to answer:

- ★ What is happening in the cartoon?
- ★ What is the cartoon's message?

Step 3: Display all the cartoons you have on the wall, and invite all of the groups to look at them. In the group discuss:

- ★ What are the common themes of the cartoons?
- ★ Which cartoon did they like best? Why?
- ★ Which cartoon did they like least? Why?
- ★ Who are the people represented? Are they rich or poor? Where do they come from?

Step 4: In smaller groups again, explain that they should choose one of the cartoons, and create a headline that sums up the cartoon's message. Let them write the headline on flipchart paper beside the cartoon. .

Debrief

Was it easy or difficult to understand what was happening in the cartoons? Why do you think people draw cartoons like these? Can you think of any cartoons that have ever caused offence or conflict? Does a cartoonist have the right to offend people? Can you think of any situations in the world where a cartoon would help explain the situation better? Do you think your headlines would help to raise awareness about the issue?

Note to leader:

Political cartoons are a useful resource for generating debate. Information and detail can be 'taken in' quickly. Cartoons and cartoonists regularly offer challenges to us all about current affairs. Above all, political cartoons don't spare our sensitivities - everyone is a target. More cartoons are available on www.developmenteducation.ie and by doing a search via online newspapers and magazines.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the start of the Simpsons cartoon when Maggie is scanned at the checkout, the amount displayed is \$847.63. This is the amount it cost to raise a child for one month in the USA when the show began in 1989.