

Interpreting Political Cartoons

What is a political cartoon?

- it is a **cartoon** is used to express an opinion about a political issue.

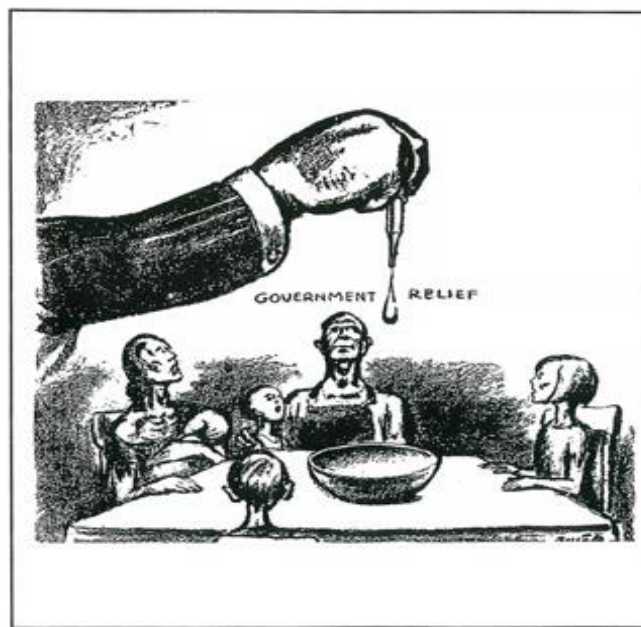
Steps to Interpreting a Political Cartoon

1. What do you see? Identify the symbols, people, and images used by the cartoonist. What do they mean? What is their connection to the issue?
2. Identify the cartoonist's message or opinion about the political cartoon. What are they trying to say? What is going on during the time period that would help me understand this issue?
3. What do you think? Do you agree with the cartoonist's message/opinion? Why/Why not?

Let's Try!



The Federationist, Vancouver 23, June 1938



The Worker, Toronto, 3 July 1933

Step One: What do you see?

1. What is the title or caption in the cartoon?

2. Identify the people, characters, or figures. Who are they?

3. What symbols, objects, or words are in the cartoon?

Step Two: What is the message or opinion?

1. What is the historical issue, event, or topic the cartoon is commenting about?

2. What is the historical context? What is going on at the time? What do I need to know understand this cartoon?

3. What do the symbols, people etc. mean? What is their significance?

Step 3: What do you think?

1. What is the cartoonists' opinion or message is? What is he/she saying?

2. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Did you find any of these steps difficult or challenging? Why?
