

6th Grade
Reading/Literature
Week 2 - Day 4

Checklist for Day 4

- Not So Loony Toons**

- A Museum of Their Own**

- BrainPop Video: Context Clues + Quiz**
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Not-So-Loony Toons

What is your favorite newspaper cartoon? "Peanuts"? "Garfield"? "Dilbert"?

Although those cartoons might make you laugh, another kind of cartoon will make you laugh *and* think. It's called an editorial cartoon. Artists draw editorial cartoons to express their opinions about subjects in the news, such as elections or the war in Afghanistan.

Cartoonists use a number of techniques, including symbolism, exaggeration, humor, and caricature (KAR-ih-kah-choor) to comment on news events.

Symbolism

On June 30, 2004, more than one year after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the United States transferred power in the war-torn country to a new Iraqi government. In one cartoon, artist Mike Thompson marked the moment by drawing a bald eagle tossing an unhatched egg marked "NEW IRAQI GOV'T" from a nest high on top of a cliff. "Fly!" the eagle yells as it tosses the egg into the air.

A symbol is something that stands for something else. A symbol's effectiveness depends on whether the audience understands what the symbol depicts.

What do you think the bald eagle symbolizes? Why did Thompson use an egg for the new Iraqi government? What do you think Thompson is saying about the transfer of power to the new Iraqi government?

Exaggeration

Cartoonists distort the characters in their cartoons. Such distortion is called exaggeration. In one cartoon, artist Gary Markstein uses exaggeration to illustrate the problem of illegal steroid use in sports. Steroids are drugs that help athletes become stronger and more muscular.

At first glance, it seems as though a muscular baseball player is walking towards the dugout. But that's not the case--it's a batboy.

What point is Markstein trying to make? Was he effective?

Humor

By being funny, a cartoonist can draw lighthearted attention to a serious problem. In 2004 the economy went up and down, although President George W. Bush said that things were improving.

In one cartoon, artist Marshall Ramsey drew the president taxiing an airplane toward trees labeled

Election Day. The plane represented the economy. As the plane bounced to the end of the runway, a worried Bush was thinking, "C'mon...lift off!"

Do you think the artist believed the economy would get off the ground before the election? Why or why not?

Caricature

Political cartoonists use a special form of exaggeration called caricature to distort the subject of a cartoon. An artist will often center on a person's looks, behavior, or dress in drawing a caricature.

In one cartoon, artist Michael Ramirez draws two huge faces of former president Bill Clinton and his wife, former New York Senator Hillary Clinton. Both gave rousing speeches at the Democratic National Convention of 2004.

The Clintons look down at a small John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee. An aide says to Kerry, "Don't worry about the Clintons overshadowing you." Why did Ramirez make the Clintons so big? Why did he draw Kerry so small? What might be the cartoonist's view of the Democratic convention?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. All of the following people are cartoonists EXCEPT

- A. Michael Ramirez
- B. John Kerry
- C. Marshall Ramsey
- D. Gary Markstein

2. The author of this passage lists examples of cartooning techniques. Which two techniques use cartoon distortion?

- A. humor and caricature
- B. exaggeration and symbolism
- C. symbolism and humor
- D. caricature and exaggeration

3. After reading the passage, you can conclude that editorial cartoons

- A. will no longer be popular in the near future
- B. do not express any important opinions
- C. are an effective way to express an opinion
- D. are never as funny as "Dilbert" and "Garfield"

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"A symbol's effectiveness depends on whether the audience understands what the symbol depicts."

Based on the text, the word **depict** means

- A. to show by a drawing
- B. to paint by number
- C. to make people laugh
- D. to listen and learn

5. Which statement best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A. Most people understand the symbolism in editorial cartoons.
- B. Everyone should read editorial cartoons to understand the news.
- C. Editorial cartoons are better than cartoons such as "Peanuts."
- D. Artists use several techniques to draw editorial cartoons.

6. What did one artist draw to illustrate the problem of illegal steroids?

7. In one cartoon, Mike Thompson drew a bald eagle tossing an unhatched egg marked "NEW IRAQI GOV'T" from a nest high on top of a cliff. "Fly!" the eagle yells as it tosses the egg into the air. What do you think the bald eagle symbolizes? Why did Thompson use an egg for the new Iraqi government?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Cartoonists use techniques, including symbolism, exaggeration, humor, and caricature _____ express their opinions.

- A. or
- B. yet
- C. to
- D. for

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The eagle and egg cartoon is even more appropriate now [2008], several years later, because

- A. the egg will never be able to fly.
- B. the eagle is a U.S. symbol.
- C. the Iraqi government still has not "hatched."
- D. none of the above.

2. The batboy's big muscles suggest that

- A. steroid use is so common that even the batboy uses them.
- B. team helpers should be made fun of just like the players.
- C. batboys shouldn't be so ambitious.
- D. using steroids is not a problem.

3. When Bush desperately hoped the plan would "lift off," it meant he hoped the economy would

- A. become a problem that people ignored.
- B. improve.
- C. cause prices to increase.
- D. all of the above.

4. You can guess from the Clinton/Kerry cartoon that at the time of the 2004 convention,

- A. Kerry was a lot shorter then than he is now.
- B. the Clintons' fame took attention away from Kerry.
- C. Bill Clinton wanted to be president again.
- D. everyone thought Kerry would become President.

5. Using exaggeration, create a caricature of a school bully.

A Museum of Their Own



World Almanac for Kids

Willie Mays and Roy Campanella started out in the Negro Leagues and followed Jackie Robinson into the majors.

When the baseball that Leroy "Satchel" Paige and Josh Gibson autographed went up for sale several years ago, the staff at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum wanted to get their mitts on it.

And why wouldn't they? On the ball were the signatures of two of the greatest players in Negro Leagues history—in all of baseball history, for that matter.

But the small museum, devoted to telling the story of the Negro Leagues, struck out. The round relic fetched \$30,000, more than the museum's yearly budget to buy such items.

Now, though, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is about to hit a home run. Officials have unveiled an ambitious \$15 million project to expand the organization's

collection and exhibition space.

The museum plans to buy an old building up the street from the current museum and to turn it into a library and research center. The vacant building is an old YMCA where the first Negro League was born. The building served the black community of Kansas City, Missouri, for decades.

"It was a place where people could go and get something to eat and not worry about segregation," Ray Doswell, the museum's curator, told *Weekly Reader Senior Edition*. "It's also where the Negro National League was founded."

First Negro League

Why did African Americans need a league of their own? They had to form their own leagues because they weren't allowed to play with white ballplayers.

The first Negro League got its start in 1920. That's when Andrew Rube Foster, a pitcher with the 1902 Cuban X-Giants and the Chicago Union Giants, decided that black players needed a baseball league.

Foster met with a group of African Americans at the YMCA in Kansas City. There they formed the Negro National League. The league flourished for a decade. "It is your league," Foster told fellow African Americans. "Nurse it! Help it! Keep it!"

African Americans soon began playing in other Negro Leagues around the country. Traveling from town to town was a hard life for many. Because hotels in many cities did not allow blacks inside, the players slept on buses, in stadiums and along the sides of roads.

More often than not, the players had to face ethnic slurs and taunts. "Out on the field, there'd be

some white folks in the stands," Satchel Paige wrote in his autobiography. "Some of them'd call you [hateful names], but most would cheer you."

In 1947, black players finally got their shot in the majors. That's when Jackie Robinson; a veteran of the Negro Leagues, integrated baseball by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Great Ballplayers

Many Negro League players became baseball's best. Henry Aaron, who played for several major-league teams, including the Atlanta Braves, began his career slugging home runs for the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League. In 1974, he broke "Babe" Ruth's all-time home-run mark.

James "Cool Papa" Bell was one of the fastest men in baseball. During his career, he stole 173 bases. Paige used to say Bell was so quick that he could flip off a light switch in the bedroom and be across the room under the covers before the light went out.

Then there was Paige himself. After two decades in the Negro Leagues, Paige helped the Cleveland Indians win the American League pennant in 1948. At the time, Paige was a 42-year-old major-league "rookie" pitcher.

Unique History

The new research center at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum will give the public a chance to learn more about those players and hundreds of others who toiled in baseball obscurity.

There will be interactive exhibits and computers as well as memorabilia. The museum is already home to dozens of bats, balls, and uniforms and hundreds of photographs.

"There's a connection between baseball and African American history," Doswell told *Weekly Reader Senior Edition*. "We want to show young people what these guys went through just to play baseball. Many of these guys worked in the iron mills or on railroads until game time."



Library of Congress

Jackie Robinson integrated baseball by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, officials have all of the following plans for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum EXCEPT

- A. expanding the current museum
- B. purchasing a nearby YMCA building
- C. turning the museum into a restaurant
- D. staying in Kansas City, Missouri

2. In this passage, the small museum can't afford to purchase an expensive autographed baseball. How is the problem solved?

- A. Visitors will be charged more to enter the museum.
- B. A \$15 million project will help the museum grow its collection.
- C. The museum will no longer include autographed baseballs in its collection.
- D. The baseball will be donated to the museum.

3. What was the author trying to convey by stating that "the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is about to hit a home run" in the fourth paragraph?

- A. Many African-American players were famous home-run hitters.
- B. The museum is enlarging its collection and adding space.
- C. The old YMCA building is part of the Negro Leagues' history.
- D. Many African Americans in baseball once faced segregation.

4. Read the following sentence from the passage: "The vacant building is an old YMCA where the first Negro League was born."

In this sentence, the word vacant means

- A. occupied
- B. dirty
- C. blank
- D. empty

5. Which statement best describes the central idea of this passage?

- A. Some of baseball's best players were in the Negro League.
- B. The Negro League began in 1920 because African Americans weren't allowed to play with white baseball players.
- C. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is expanding to better tell the story of African Americans in baseball.
- D. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is home to many different kinds of memorabilia.

6. Why is Henry Aaron included in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum?

7. What important effect did Jackie Robinson have on African Americans in baseball? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ of remaining unused, the YMCA building will now be part of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

- A. Yet
- B. But
- C. Otherwise
- D. Instead

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The museum staff is probably excited about its new building, because
 - A. it will have room to display the autographed baseball.
 - B. it got \$15 million to buy the building.
 - C. it is the exact building where Negro Leagues began.
 - D. the vacant building was once a YMCA.

2. Examples of figurative language in this passage include all the following except
 - A. black players finally got their shot in the majors.
 - B. Nurse it!
 - C. the vacant building is an old YMCA.
 - D. the small museum struck out.

3. The reason African Americans were not allowed to play with white players was
 - A. they weren't as athletic as white players.
 - B. that there were too few hotels that they could stay in.
 - C. that they were too old.
 - D. due to the practice of segregation.

4. After baseball became integrated, which of the following records were made:
 - A. Satchel Paige was probably the oldest major-league rookie.
 - B. "Cool Papa" Bell stole 173 bases.
 - C. Henry Aaron broke Babe Ruth's homerun record.
 - D. all of the above

5. Why would it be difficult to play baseball if after working in the iron mills or on railroads until game time?

1. What is the closest synonym for the word "context?"

- a. Synonym
- b. Definition
- c. Setting
- d. Example

2. "The judge issued an injunction that ordered the accused criminal to remain under house arrest." What is the best synonym for "injunction?"

- a. Official command
- b. Question
- c. Crime
- d. Guilty verdict

3. "While the people of Guilder were forced to read propaganda, the citizens of Florin were able to read honest, fact-based news reporting." In this example, the word "propaganda" can be defined through:

- a. Homophones
- b. Homonyms
- c. Synonyms
- d. Antonyms

4. "Unlike the other candidates, who stammered and stuttered their way through their speeches, Lilli was eloquent." What is the best definition for "eloquent?"

- a. Well-spoken
- b. Musical
- c. Quick-witted
- d. Intelligent

5. "We accept \$10 bills, \$20 bills, and any other denomination you might have." What does "denomination" mean in this context?

- a. Credit card
- b. Value of money
- c. Loan
- d. Form of currency

6. "Voldemort was a malevolent force in the world—cruel, violent, and evil." In the previous sentence, you can define the word "malevolent" through the use of:

- a. Antonyms
- b. Synonyms
- c. Homonyms
- d. Homophones

7. "Imperialism flourished in the 19th century, as the British took control of India and Belgium seized the Congo." What does "imperialism" mean?

- a. When one country declares war on another
- b. When two countries form a partnership
- c. When a country declares its independence
- d. When one country takes over another

8. The words "climatic" and "climactic" have similar _____ but different _____.

- a. Sounds; meanings
- b. Synonyms; antonyms
- c. Spellings; sounds
- d. Meanings; spellings

9. "King Max was known for his benevolence. He was said to be the _____, gentlest, and most generous man in the kingdom." What word might fit in the blank?

- a. Happiest
- b. Richest
- c. Handsomest
- d. Nicest

10. "The performers diverted the guests with a variety of jokes and songs." What's an antonym for "diverted?"

- a. Entertained
- b. Bored
- c. Satisfied
- d. Punctured

