

Views From Abroad

RI.6-8.7

How do people in other countries see issues facing the world?
This sampling of political cartoons will give you an idea.

BELGIUM



LUC DESCHEEMAEKER • CARTOON MOVEMENT

POLITICAL CARTOONS, drawings that comment on particular issues or people, convey often-complex ideas through symbols. Most of the cartoons you see in *Junior Scholastic* are drawn by Americans. But this special World Week supplement presents some examples of what cartoonists outside the United States are thinking about. (The red bar above each cartoon indicates what country the cartoonist is from.)

Some of these cartoons can be understood at first glance. But others reveal their meaning more slowly.

Note the matchbox with a map of the world pictured on it, for example. What might the burning match symbolize? Could it cause the whole matchbox to go up in flames?

As you study each cartoon on the following pages, keep in mind these devices, which political cartoonists use to get their meaning across.

caricature: an exaggerated drawing of a person, to poke fun or to make the subject recognizable

symbolism: the use of an object that is widely understood to stand for a country, an institution, or an idea;

Uncle Sam, for example, is a well-known symbol of the U.S.

hyperbole (*hy-PUR-buh-lee*): a deliberate exaggeration, often for comic effect

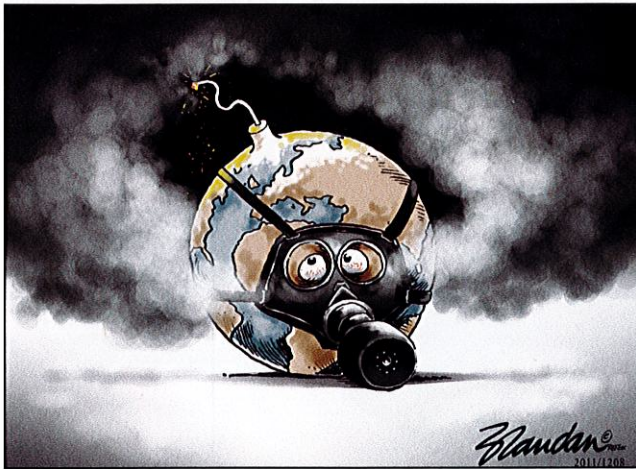
irony: Irony can be a tricky concept to grasp. It has several subtly different meanings, including a situation or statement that differs from what you or the character in the cartoon might expect; when a cartoon's message contradicts its language or symbols; or when a character in a cartoon clearly doesn't understand something the reader does.

See the March 12, 2018, Teacher's Guide, p. T-15, for answers to our World Week questions.

Climate Change

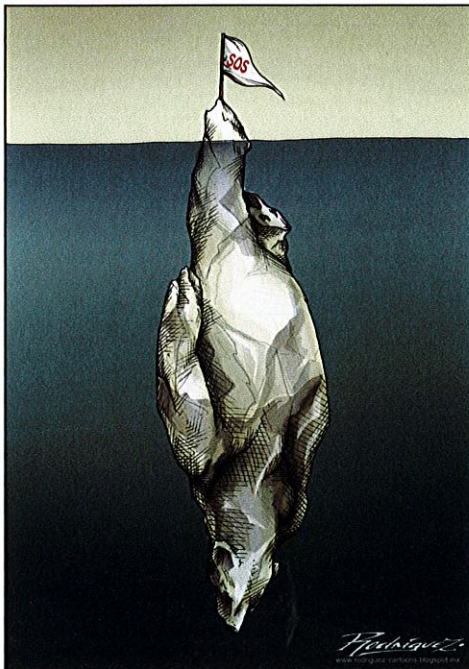
Most scientists agree: Climate change is a serious threat. In the first cartoon below, Earth is depicted as a bomb with a lit fuse. A gas mask protects the planet from smoke, which may represent human-made pollution. At bottom, what looks like a melting iceberg is, on closer look, a polar bear sending a distress signal.

1 | SOUTH AFRICA



BRANDAN REYNOLDS • CARTOON MOVEMENT

2 | MEXICO



ANTONIO RODRÍGUEZ • CARTOON MOVEMENT

Refugees

According to the United Nations, there are a record 22.5 million refugees today, even as more countries close their borders to them. In the first cartoon, what impact has being a refugee had on children at play? At bottom, why might the cartoonist have used flagpoles to suggest the family is trapped?

3 | BRAZIL



SILVANO MELLO • CARTOON MOVEMENT

4 | TURKEY

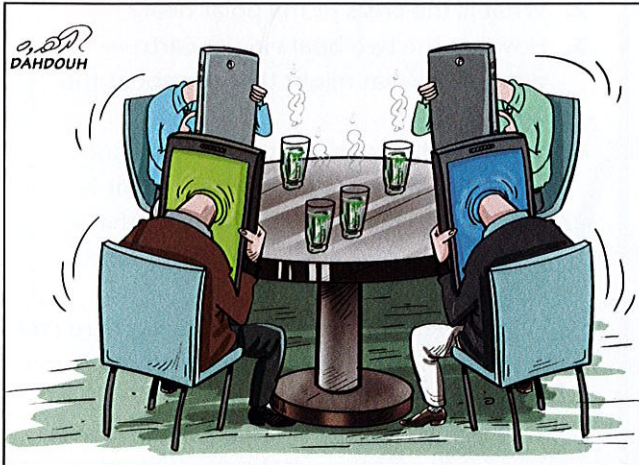


EMRAH ARIKAN • CARTOON MOVEMENT

Technology

New technology can bring great benefits to our lives—or lead to isolation and a lack of privacy. In the cartoon at top, people have lost contact with each other as they disappear into their smartphones. What point does the cartoon at bottom seem to be making about our identities in an increasingly digital world?

5 | MOROCCO



ABDELGHANI DAHDOUH • CARTOON MOVEMENT

6 | CUBA

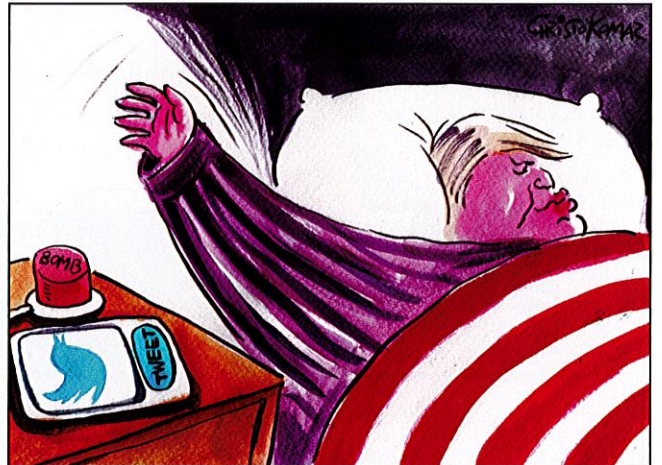


FALCO • CARTOON MOVEMENT

President Trump

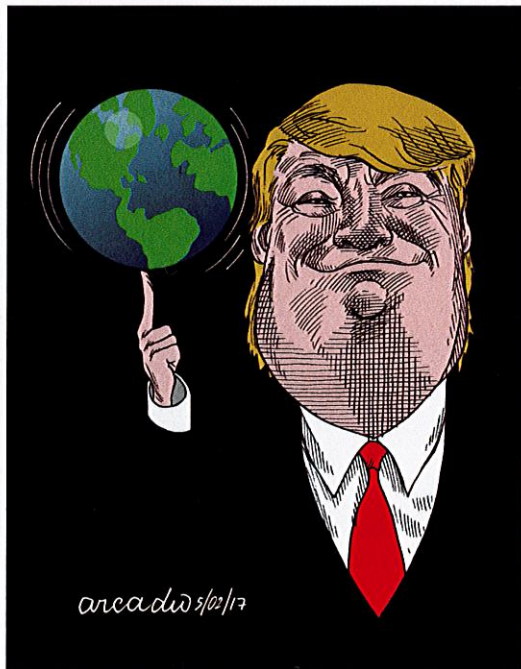
U.S. President Donald Trump is a popular subject, and often a target, of cartoonists all over the world. The first cartoon worries that Trump, who seems to wake every morning ready to attack via Twitter, might carelessly cause great damage. The bottom cartoon highlights the enormous power that Trump holds.

7 | BULGARIA



CHRISTO KOMARNITSKI • CAGLE CARTOONS.COM

8 | COSTA RICA

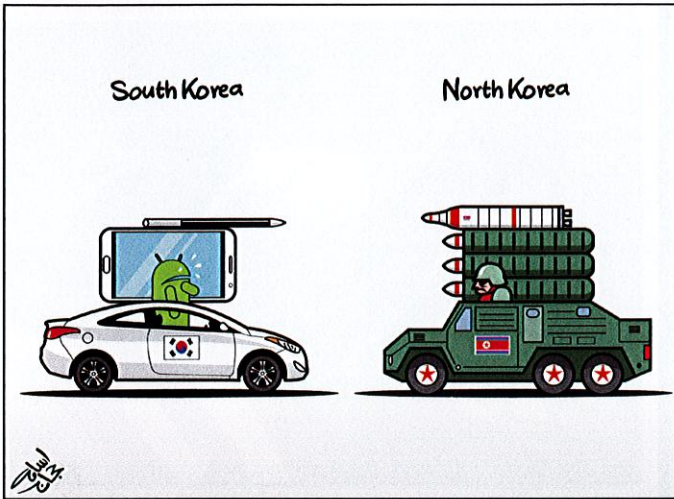


ARCADIO ESQUIVEL • POLITICALCARTOONS.COM

North Korea

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un remains a big worry for the United States, South Korea, and other nations. Here, one cartoonist contrasts democratic South Korea with the nuclear threat that its neighbor has become. What point is the bottom cartoon making about how Kim survives despite international sanctions imposed on his country?

9 | JORDAN



OSAMA HAJJAJ • CARTOON MOVEMENT

10 | JAPAN



SAKAI • THE NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

QUESTIONS

Directions: Use a separate sheet of paper to answer the following questions, using specific details from the cartoons. (The question number corresponds to the number of the cartoon.)

1. What emotion do you think is conveyed by the eyes drawn on Earth's face? Why might this be so?
2. What is the crisis of the polar bear?
3. How are the two boats in the cartoon different? What might that say about the child at right?
4. Who are the people in the cartoon, and what details tell you this? What point is the cartoonist making by showing them behind flagpoles at the United Nations headquarters?
5. What device is the cartoonist using here (see p. 1), and how is it being used? What do you think the cartoon is saying?
6. Why do you think the fingerprint is made up of zeros and ones? What might this be saying about a person's identity?
7. How does this cartoon use the device of caricature? How does it use hyperbole?
8. What do you think this cartoon says about President Donald Trump? Could it be seen as either admiring or critical? Explain.
9. What items is each vehicle carrying? What do the items say about differences between North Korea and South Korea?
10. What is happening in this cartoon? What does it compare oil to?

ESSAY Choose one of the cartoons on these pages to write about. Explain the role that each of its details plays in conveying the cartoon's overall message. What other symbols can you think of that could have been added to reinforce that meaning? Explain.