



Understanding Political Cartoons

What are they?

- o In the late 1800's an increase in newspaper and magazine circulation caused a rise of political cartoons.
- o Make people think about political, societal, or governmental issues
- o Emphasizes one side of an issue
- o Uses humor and drawings to make its point
- o Play an important part in telling the history of a given period of time

How do they work?

- SYMBOLISM- An object that represents a larger idea or concept
- EXAGGERATION- overstating or magnifying a problem
- LABELING- make it clear exactly what objects or people stand for
- ANALOGY- a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics; help their readers see an issue in a different light
- IRONY- the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be

How to Analyze Political Cartoons

SCAMS!

S = Subject

C = Caption

A = Actions

M= Message/ theme

S = Symbols

SCAMS

○ S = symbols

- What do the symbols in the cartoon represent?
Cartoonists will typically use symbols to represent something or someone else.

○ C = caption

- What is the title of the cartoon? After analyzing the cartoon with for all of the SCAMS, you should be able to figure out why the author chose that caption and what it means.

SCAMS

- A = activities

- What is happening in the cartoon? Look for movement, actions and dialogue. These provide clues to the message and what the symbols represent.

- M = message

- Ask yourself these questions to decipher the meaning: What is the author's point of view? What is the theme of the cartoon? What is the purpose for making this cartoon?

- S = subject

- What is the topic of the cartoon? Sometimes it helps to start with this question first.

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyrMlkKTB3Y>

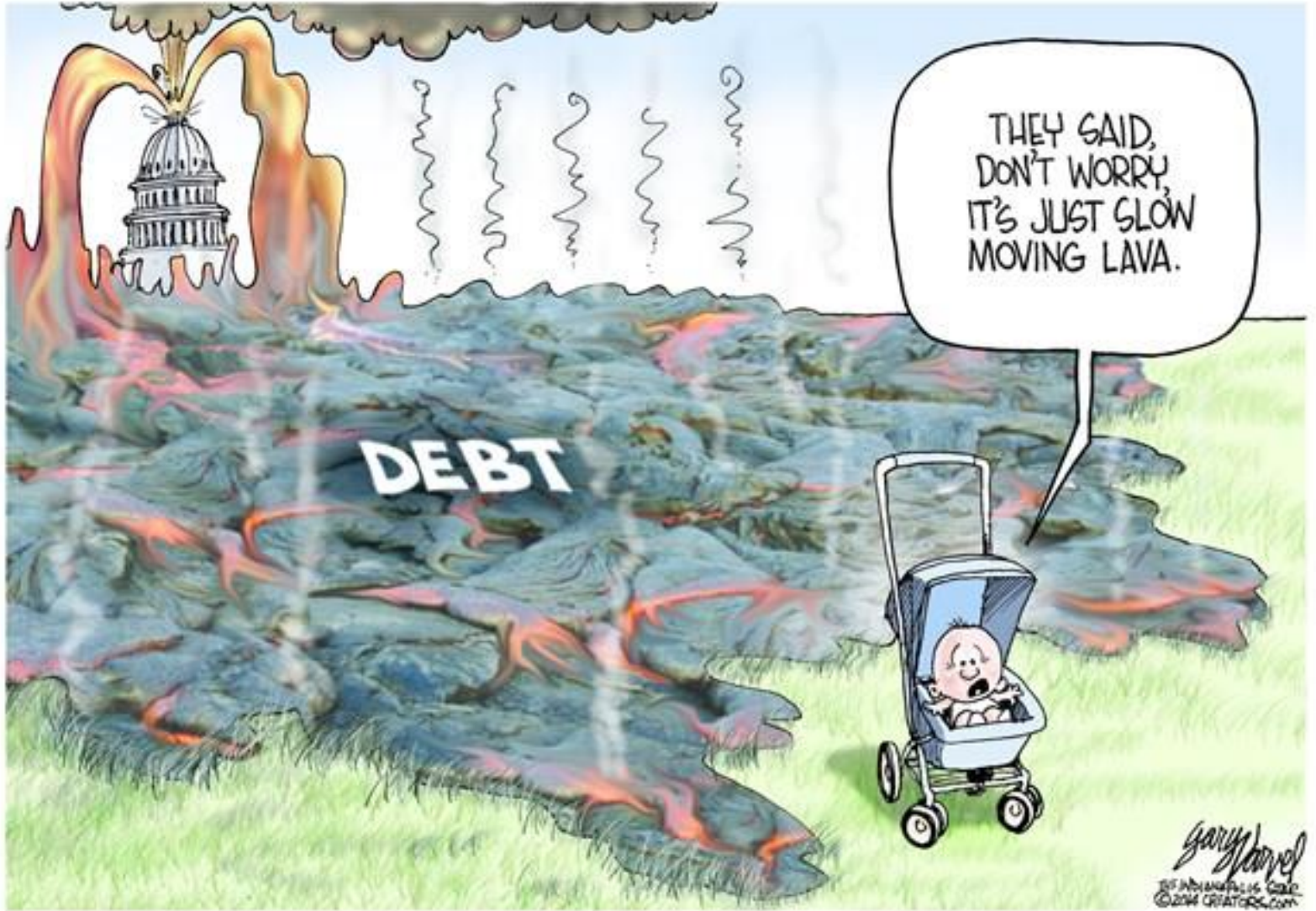
o (33 seconds)

What really Scares Kids...



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Ov~P~
THE SACRAMENTO BEE
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EBOLA!!!

OBESITY:
300,000
DEATHS PER YEAR

TOBACCO:
450,000
DEATHS PER YEAR

ALCOHOL:
88,000
DEATHS PER YEAR

