

Cartoon Analysis

VISUALS

1. List the objects or people in the cartoon.
2. Which of the objects / people are symbols?
3. What does each one of the symbols mean?

WORDS (not all 'toons have words)

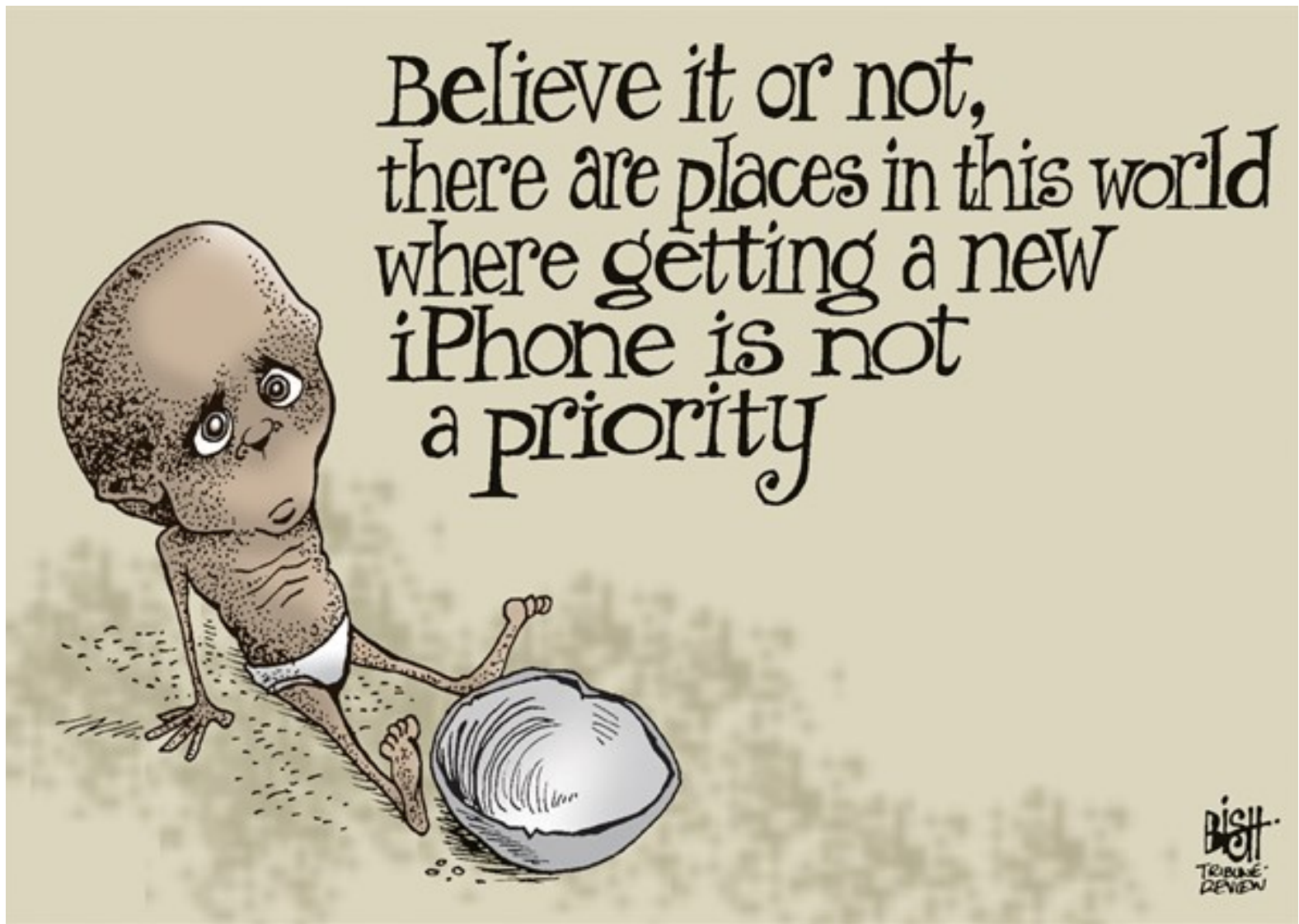
1. Identify the cartoon caption and / or title.
2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.
3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.
4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Explain.
5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.

ANALYSIS

1. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.
2. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.
3. Explain the message of the cartoon.
4. What special interest groups would agree / disagree with the cartoon's message? Explain.

worksheet adapted from "U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's Digital Classroom"
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/cartoon.html>

Study the cartoon and read the analysis which follows.



VISUALS

1. List the objects or people in the cartoon.

There is a small child who is likely of African ethnicity. His ribs are showing, he is wearing very little clothing, and he has an empty bowl.

2. Which of the objects / people are symbols?

The small child, his clothing, and his empty bowl are symbols.

3. What do each of the symbols mean?

The small child is so thin his ribs are showing. This suggests he is malnourished and very likely unhealthy. The child has dark skin, implying he is from an impoverished country, most likely a third world country found in Africa. The empty bowl and lack of clothing indicates the child lacks food, clothing, and money to buy either.

WORDS (not all 'toons have words)

1. Identify the cartoon caption and / or title.

The caption says: "Believe it or not, there are places in this world where getting a new iPhone is not a priority".

2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.

"Believe it or not", "places in this world", "iPhone", "getting a new iPhone is not a priority"

3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.

There are no dates or numbers that appear in this cartoon.

4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Explain.

"Believe it or not" suggests that what the cartoon is saying should be common sense; however, some people might not realize that this is something that should be obvious.

"there are places" signifies that the text is only talking about some specific places, without actually saying where.

"getting a new iPhone" signifies the main idea of the cartoon is to show a contrast between the rich and the poor, and the word "iPhone" symbolizes the rich

"priority" is what is important to you – in some places in the world, priorities are the basic necessities of life, such as food and clothing, while in other places, people have the luxury of making unnecessary consumer goods, such as iPhones, a priority

5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.

annoyance, anger, pity, sorrow, and understanding

MESSAGE

1. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

The child is sitting on the ground with an empty bowl, hoping that someone will feed him, or give him something to allow him to survive.

2. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.

The words in the cartoon help to explain that the small child represents the kind of people who do not have “getting a new iPhone” on their list of priorities. Where this child lives, people stand in long lines to get food, while in other parts of the world, people stand in long lines to be the first to get the latest iPhone

3. Explain the message of the cartoon.

The cartoon is saying that in some parts of the world, there are people whose focus is on having the latest consumer good, such as a new iPhone that is not much different than a previous version, that they don't stop to help out those who really need it. These people think that being the first person to have the new iPhone 6 is the most important thing in the world, yet there are starving people all across the globe who are desperate for food, clothing, and shelter. It is a sad commentary on humanity that those who have money to spare spend it on frivolous things instead of taking care of their neighbours, while those neighbours die from want of the basics.

4. What special interest groups would agree / disagree with the cartoon's message? Explain.

Groups founded to help those in need would strongly agree with this cartoon's message. These kinds of groups are often charities which raise money to feed people across the world. They must wish more people would donate to these causes, rather than spend their money on things that they truly don't need.

People selfishly focused on their own materialistic wants, who see the possession of the latest consumer good as some sort of status symbol and who simply don't care about those in need, would not be moved by this cartoon. They might even react in such a manner as to suggest people in such dire circumstances should do more to help themselves.