

Cartoon Analysis Worksheet – Sample Answers

Except for Those of Us Who Are Above It

Level 1

Visuals

1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.
 - Five men wearing suits and hats.
 - Badges on the men labeled FBI and CIA
 - A briefcase that says “Official Business”
 - An American flag
 - A building with pillars – U.S. Supreme Court
 - “Equal Justice Under Law”

Words

1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title

Except for those of us who are above it

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

FBI and CIA badges on the men; Official Business label on the briefcase; Equal Justice Under Law sign on the U.S. Supreme Court

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

N/A

Level 2

Visuals

2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols?

American flag, U.S. Supreme Court

3. What do you think each symbol means?

The flag stands for all things associated with being an American. The building is the U.S. Supreme Court which represents the court system and the idea of justice.

Words

4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so?

Equal Justice Under Law because they are the largest in the cartoon.

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

The men’s faces appear to be happy and as if they have gotten away with something.

Level 3

- A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon

Men are sitting on top of the U.S. Supreme Court building. They are sitting above the sign that says: Equal Justice Under Law.

- B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.

The words “Equal Justice Under Law” lets you know that the building they are on is the U.S. Supreme Court.

- C. Explain the message of the cartoon.

The message of this cartoon is that the men, representing the FBI and CIA, are above the law.

- D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon’s message? Why?

Members of the FBI and CIA would disagree because it paints them in a negative light. People who have a negative view of the FBI and CIA would probably agree with this cartoon.