

Franklin Jr./Sr High School Reading Article

Cartoon: “Caution: Children Playing”

Reading Strategy for the Article: Students will circle all the significant elements in the cartoon

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND WRITE NOTES in the margin box. This requires reading of the article **more than once**.

Step 1: Mark the cartoon using these symbols as you examine it:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Make notes in the margin.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the cartoon. A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you look at it
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer’s strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your margin notes will be assessed by your teacher along with your answers to the questions.

Children Playing by Gary Varvel



Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as you examine the cartoon.

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Content

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read.

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Comprehension Questions— you may answer in phrases.

1. What is the plot of the cartoon? In other words, what is happening?

1. Which comic device does the cartoonist Gary Varvel use to illustrate his main idea and which ones does he not use?
 - A. **Hyperbole** : an extreme magnification or exaggeration of actuality. It blows smething completely out of proportion for a distorted effect. The purpose of hyperbole is to create a larger-than-life effect and overly stress a specific point.
 - B. **Irony**: when the opposite of what you expect to happen occurs.
 - C. **Understatement**: a figure of speech in which statemens are purposely understated. It may be use to indicate the s peaker’s nonchalance (or obliviousness) regarding an important or toerhwise remarkable situation.
 - D. **Satire**: the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule or the like, in exposing , denouncingor deriding vice, folly, etc.
 - E. **Charicature**: a description of characterization that exaggerates or distorts a character’s prominent features, usually or the purposes of mockery.

Answer the following questions in one or more complete sentences.

1. Explain cartoonist Gary Varvel’s intended meaning.

2. What is your reaction to Mr. Varel’s cartoon? Is it accurate? Why or Why not?

3. Is it funny? Distressing? Support your answer with evidence from the cartoon.

4. Sentiment is defined as a view of or attitude toward a situation or event; an attitude or opinion. Do you agree or disagree with his sentiment? Support your answer with evidence from the cartoon.