

30-Minute Activity:

Irony refers to expressing meaning by using words or images that are the opposite of what you mean. Irony is often humorous, and it often uses that humor to make a point. Look at the images of Hassan Hajjaj’s art. Choose one of the works—either “Dior” or “Time Out.” Explain, either in writing or by speaking, what is ironic in the artwork. How is the irony expressed? What is it commenting on? Is it funny? If so, what makes it funny?

Political cartoons are kind of like small, visual editorials. They offer commentary on political issues, often using irony to make their point. Test your ability to recognize and explain irony by finding a political cartoon that uses it. Share your cartoon with the class, explaining what in it is ironic, what makes it ironic, what makes it humorous (or not), and what it’s a commentary on.

This lesson meets these Common Core Standards:

RL/RI.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

RH9-10.8 Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author’s claims