

## INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS

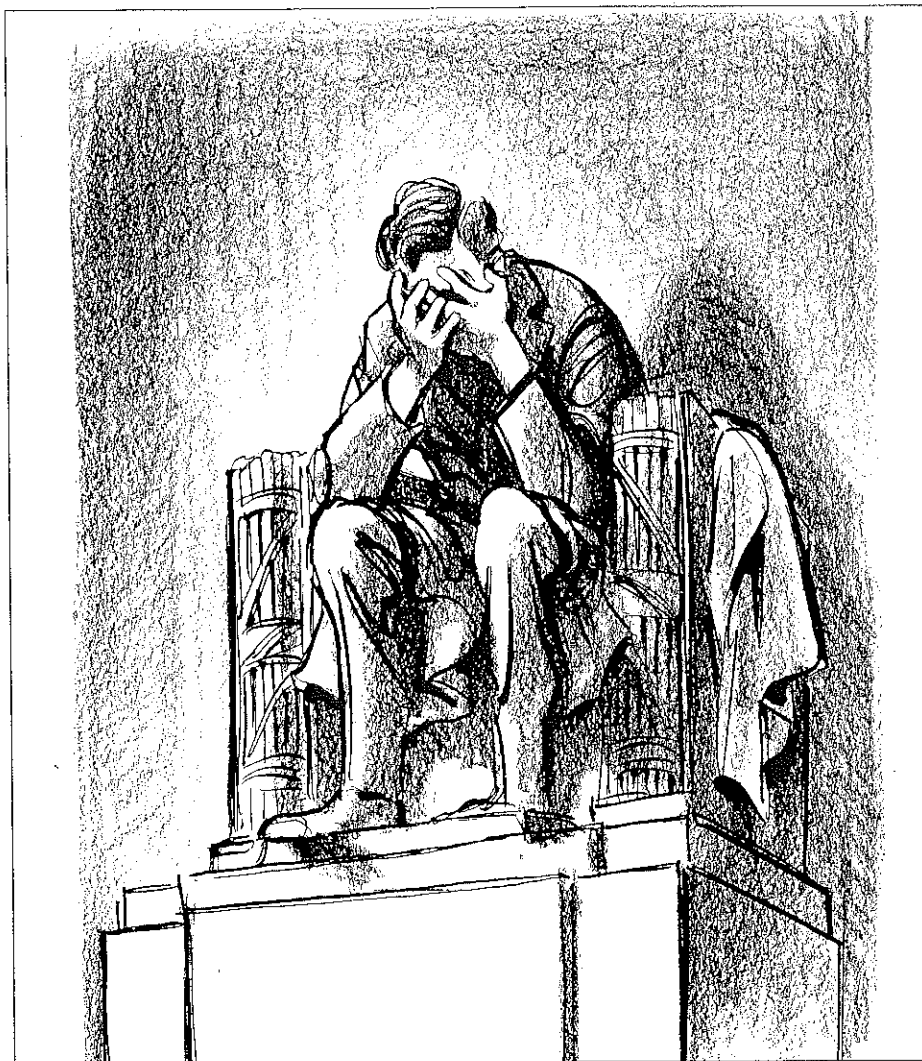


Activity 17

### THE DEATH OF JFK

A well-known saying is "A picture is worth a thousand words." Few images confirm this idea as well as Bill Mauldin's response to the assassination of President Kennedy. Some cartoons convey their messages through a single gesture or pose. The action's simplicity can touch the viewer deeply. In this cartoon, Mauldin expressed the national response to Kennedy's assassination. For the moment, shared shock and grief set aside political differences as everyone mourned.

**Directions:** Study the cartoon below, and then answer the questions that follow.



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CHAPTER 17

(continued)

### ANALYZING THE CARTOON ACTIVITY 17 *(continued)*

1. What statue has Mauldin drawn?

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2. Where is this statue located? What does the location add to the power of the cartoon?

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3. What is the character in the cartoon doing? How do you know? What does Mauldin want to convey through this action?

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4. What does the shadow on the wall on the right side of the cartoon symbolize?

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### CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Determining Cause and Effect** What is the effect of having a statue come to life?

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6. **Analyzing Information** Consider the important national events of President Kennedy's presidency. What does Mauldin convey about the loss of Kennedy by associating him with Abraham Lincoln?

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7. **Drawing Conclusions** This cartoon has no dialogue, commentary, caption, or title. What are the effects of this silence on the viewer?

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