

10. Forms of humour

There are various forms of humour used in texts. They include:

- **Comics/cartoons:** These are simple drawings or graphics conveying musings or a story about people and the world we live in.
- **Stand-up comedy:** This is when one or more people entertain an audience (usually live) through humour.
- **Skits:** These are short performances of a humorous nature.
- **Sitcoms:** Situational comedies are television comedies that revolve around a certain situation that never changes.
- **Films:** These are films, usually of a light hearted nature that are humorous and often thought provoking
- **Caricatures:** This is when the physical features of people and/or animals are excessively exaggerated for comic effect.
- **Stories/poems:** These are poems and stories that use humour to convey ideas and themes.

Only some forms will be addressed in this unit.

Cartoons and comic strips

Cartoons are simple drawings or graphics depicting animals, people, places, things and events in a humorous way. They often include high impact captions or speech bubbles that communicate thoughts about characters in the cartoon. For example social commentary cartoons from Leunig.

Cartoonists may use some or all of the following techniques:

- exaggerated characteristics or actions
- unusual facial features
- speech bubbles
- strange creatures
- larger than life situations
- cartoonist signature
- caption or dialogue
- caricature in order to satirise person/event
- incongruity.

Comic strips are short musings on life told through a series of boxed graphics and speech bubbles. For example *Garfield*, which is for children.

Comic strips may contain some or all of the following techniques:

- series title
- speech bubbles
- funny faces, exaggerated expressions
- a story line and a punch line
- a number of frames
- animals that talk.

Complete the exercise below.

