

# Cartoons for the Classroom

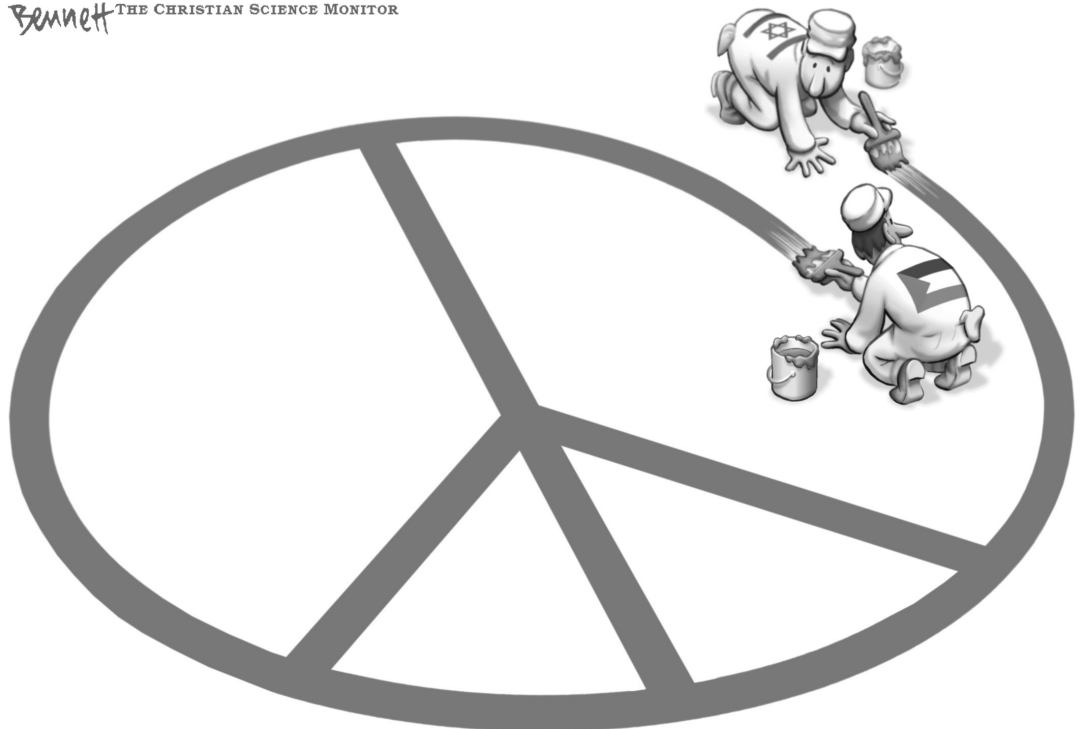


Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

## Between the lines

Israeli and Palestinian leaders declared a cease-fire recently at a summit in Egypt aimed at ending more than four years of bloodshed and reviving long-stalled peace talks. Within days, however, suicide bombers struck within Israel and threatened the fragile peace deal.

Bennett THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR



## Saying it without words

The Middle East just can't seem to get it together when it comes to building a lasting peace. Clay Bennett's cartoons manage to say an awful lot without using any words. To do that, the cartoonist uses familiar symbols to communicate with you visually. The key is "familiar." To get the point in this cartoon, you need to recognize the flags on the backs of the painters and be aware of the conflict in the Middle East. The artist has to assume you know these things. As long as the symbols in a toon are clear and the message is communicated, captions are unnecessary. And the toon is effective in any language.

Cartoon courtesy Clay Bennett / Christian Science Monitor

### Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Clay Bennett  
<http://www.claybennett.com/>

## Talking points

1. Who do the two painters represent in the toon above? What symbols tell you that?
2. Which of the painters is to blame for the bad result? What's implied by your answer?
3. You should recognize the peace symbol immediately. Where have you seen it before?
4. The goal of a political cartoon is often to get you to look at an issue in a different way to better understand what's at stake. Is the cartoon a commentary or a call to action? Explain the point the cartoonist is trying to make.

## Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist. Gather news stories about those issues and evaluate the cartoonists opinions.