

**SUMMARY**

Choose at least one of John R. Fischetti's finished cartoons that is relevant to your paper's topic and/or thesis. Complete the worksheet to aid in critically analyzing the piece.

**Lesson:** Use primary resources as evidence to help support a historical argument.

**COLLECTION INFO**

John R. Fischetti Collection  
College Archives & Special Collections  
Columbia College Chicago  
[http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc\\_fischetti/](http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_fischetti/)

**Biography:**

John R. Fischetti was born in Brooklyn on September 27, 1916 and died in Chicago on November 18, 1980. After graduating from Pratt Technical Institute, he went to work for Disney Studios in California as an animator and later moved to Chicago, Illinois where he was an illustrator for the *Chicago Sun* newspaper (now *Chicago Sun-Times*). He entered the U.S. Army in 1942 where he cartooned for *Stars & Stripes* newspaper; he also moonlighted at the *Paris Post*. After his return from Europe in 1946, he went to New York to do freelance work for advertising agencies and magazines. Between 1951 and 1962, he worked with the Newspaper Enterprise Association (NEA) in New York as an editorial artist. In 1962, Fischetti joined the *New York Herald Tribune* where he popularized the horizontal cartoon format with grey tones, now a standard of the field. With the demise of the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1967, Fischetti returned to Chicago, Illinois to work as a political cartoonist for the *Chicago Daily News*. When that paper folded in 1978, he worked for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Fischetti was the recipient of the National Headliners Club medal in 1951, two awards from Sigma Delta Chi Society of Professional Journalists in 1956 and 1958, and four consecutive awards from the National Cartoonists Society from 1962 through 1965. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for the body of cartoons he drew in 1968. By the time he died in 1980, his cartoons had appeared in publications such as the *Chicago Sun*, *Chicago Daily News*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Herald*



*Tribune*, and *Stars & Stripes*. He also illustrated several books, a number of them for children, and his non-editorial work appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Collier's* magazine, *Woman's Home Companion*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Punch* magazine.

## OBSERVE

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1. Quickly scan the piece. What do you notice first? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you find interesting? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you notice that you cannot explain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe its physical qualities. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## READ

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Form an overall impression of the piece and then look at individual parts. Mentally divide it into quadrants and study each section to see what further details become visible. Describe your notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARIZE

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Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your observations and your close viewing of the image in your own words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## INTERPRET

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1. What is the title of the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is the artist? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Did the artist work with any collaboration? If so, with whom and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the audience of this piece? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When was the piece created? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What time period/era does the piece's topic(s) cover? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think the piece was created? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What materials/tools did the artist use to create this piece? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How was the piece made? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What inferences can you make about the artist's values and assumptions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does this piece tell you about the artist? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What are some keywords you would use to describe this piece? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What geographic references does this piece make? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Who are the subject(s) of the piece? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. How does the piece's title/subjects/themes relate to the context of the illustration? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## POSE QUESTIONS

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1. What questions do you have for the artist that are left unanswered by the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What questions do you have about the piece's topics? \_\_\_\_\_

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## CONTEXTUALIZE

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1. What evidence in the piece verifies the inferences you have made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What evidence from other sources verifies the inferences you have made about the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where can you look to find answers to some of your questions about the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where can you find more information about the topic(s) in the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

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## NOTES

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Describe how you will use information from this item to support your paper topic/thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

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