

a. According to the article, what makes caricatures of political candidates “more powerful than any argument”?

One of its powers is to exaggerate a person's least redeeming features or sayings, or expose hidden truths (or un-truths, for that matter) to the public eye. Its true power is that it uses humor to get its point across, which is much more effective than any argument.

b. What examples of caricatures from the past and present does the reporter offer in this article?

Tina Fey doing her impression of Gov. Sarah Palin, William Marcy Tweed being drawn with a huge bag of money in place of his head, and the way political cartoonists have compared Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain to Mr Spock and Captain Kirk.

c. According to the article, how did Tina Fey's impression of Governor Sarah Palin blend caricature and reality?

She did a mighty good impression of Sarah Palin, with her winks and the way she speaks, but also exaggerated her ideas and mannerisms to make it more funny.

d. What do you think the reporter means when he says, “[f]or a great caricaturist, physiognomy is a reflection of the hidden soul”?

He means that caricaturists can use their art to point out and exaggerate the things that people try to keep hidden about themselves.

e. How do candidates turn themselves into caricatures, and how does this affect the overall campaign?

They try to take on characteristics that the public will like in them, so that more people will choose to vote for them. For example, I don't think the Sarah Palin is actually the person that she has been portrayed as throughout McCain's campaign. I think that she's a lot scarier.

f. What conclusions can you draw about the power of caricatures based on this article?

They are wonderfully powerful, able to point out both looks and personality traits that define a political candidate, and ones that the candidate might want to keep hidden. It is also a dangerous force to reckon with, and if I were running for president, I would definitely try and get on the good side of the political cartoonists.

g. What do you think of political caricatures? What about the notion of the candidates and speeches themselves as caricatures?

I believe that they have their place, although I don't like the idea of political candidates pretending to be someone else. I think they should be themselves, that way we can weed out the bad ones more easily.