

Obergefell v. Hodges / Cartoon Analysis—Answer Key



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Observe

1. What people and objects are shown? Make a list of what you see in the cartoon including captions.

Answers will vary, but students may say they see two busses, one leading the way for the other. The busses are labeled “Civil Rights” and “Gay Rights.” Some may notice that both busses are full of people who are singing, “WE SHALL OVERCOME.”

2. What is the setting?

The two busses are on a road.

Reflect

3. What is happening in this image?

The two busses are going forward down a road together while the passengers sing, “WE SHALL OVERCOME.”

4. What significance do the labels and dialog have?

The busses are labeled “Civil Rights” and “Gay Rights.” The bus leading the way represents the fight for African American’s Civil rights and is an allusion to the Freedom Riders, Rosa Parks, and the Montgomery bus boycott. The bus that follows is labeled “Gay Rights” and looks like a newer model representing a new movement in civil rights. “WE SHALL OVERCOME” is in all capitals, suggesting it is being sung loudly by the people on both busses. The song “We Shall Overcome” was a popular song during civil rights marches in the 1950s and 60s. Its message was that together the civil rights protestors would be victorious over discrimination and racism.

Evaluate the Message

5. In your opinion, what is the cartoonist’s message? What elements of the cartoon give you that impression?

The political cartoon is about the similarities regarding the fight for civil rights for African Americans and racial minorities and the fight for equal rights based on sexual orientation, identity or transgender status. The Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s is leading the way for the LBGTQ rights movement of today.

6. Do you agree with the point of view and message of the cartoonist? Why or why not?

Student answers will vary. Students who agree will highlight similarities between the two movements for equal rights. Those who disagree will point out differences.

7. Did you find the cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?

Student answers will vary.

8. What other techniques could the cartoonist have used to make this cartoon more persuasive?

Student answers will vary.

Question

9. What do you still wonder about?

Student answers will vary.