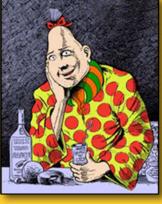
Cuba at the Crossroads Lesson 2 Cuba: The Captible Tour

Cuba: The Reality Tour





Essential Questions

- > How do artists express their most important social and political views?
- > How can a comic strip be studied as a primary source document?
- > What can we learn about Cuban culture and history from a foreigner's perspective?
- > What are the advantages and disadvantages of Cuba's dependence on foreign powers?
- > What lessons from the past can be applied to Cuba's depedency on other countries?

American cartoonist Bill Griffith travelled around Cuba for two weeks in October, 1994 at the height of the Special Period. Griffith, noted for a unique "cartoon-o-journalism" style writing, chronicled his experiences in "Cuba the Reality Tour" and "Zippy" from March to April, 1995. Zippy, the pinhead clown, and Griffy introduce readers to Cuban culture, the realities of daily life during the Special Period and to the unique experience of a country void of fast food restaurants and American commercialism.

Activity 1 Cuba: The Reality Tour

In Activity 1 you will learn about Cuban culture and history by examining "Cuba: The Reality Tour", an example of cartoon-o-journalism that portrays Cuba, 1994 from an outsider's perspective. The events in the reality tour reflect Griffith's actual experiences while on the island.

1. Study Cuba: Reality Tour for 1-2 minu at first glance? What is familiar/unfa	utes by looking only at the images. What do you see miliar?
 With a partner, examine the graphics are the actors? What is happening? 	s and text, then note your general observations. Who
3. List new vocabulary in Spanish or En	glish, and then define the words.
4. List cultural references that you need	d clarified.
5. What did you learn from the comic all Art/architecture	bout Cuban: Daily Life
Food	History
Religion	Politics/government
People	Towns/geography

Otl	her
6.	Reflect on the cartoon-o-journalism style. What does it represent to you? How so?
7.	Do you need background knowledge to understand the artist's message? Explain your answer.
8.	How do Griffith's observations reflect our culture? Give examples of how Griffith describes Cuba by using North American context. Do his observations of Cuban society reflect our culture in such a way that Cubans might not understand his humor?
9.	Why do you think the 1990's were called the "Special Period"? Are there clues in "Cuba: The Reality Tour"?
10.	Write concluding observations about "Cuba: The Reality Tour"in which you discuss the artist's intent. How does he use humor, sarcasm, irony and juxtapositions to express his message? What does "Cuba: Reality Show" tell you about Cuban people, religion, daily life, economics, politics, and the arts?

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11. Have do you think life has shapped since the Coasial Davied 20 years and 2 Watch Cuba
11. How do you think life has changed since the Special Period 20 years ago? Watch Cuba,
2016 https://youtu.be/FlhBKRUNF70 and be prepared to share your impressions during
class discussion. Are there any surprises?
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12. Lagniappe- a little extra
Read about music during the Special Period in Music of Latin America and the Caribbean
pages142-143. How and why did music change during this period?
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