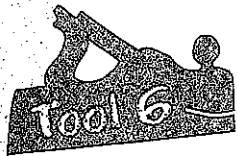


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Cartoon Assignment

Directions: Create a cartoon using a picture of a character from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and thought bubbles (see sample of George Washington). You don't have to be funny to do this, because as the attached packet explains, placing serious thoughts beside something goofy does the trick. For example, picture a guy in a tuxedo falling in a mud puddle. It's not really that funny, but the reason we laugh is because something serious is paired with something goofy. When your cartoons are complete, the reader should learn important information about the character in the passage *and* be entertained by your cleverness. Please read the rubric carefully. I've attached some pictures of clip art from the story, but you can **earn extra credit if you draw your own character.**

You will be given some class time to work on this project and then you are on your own. Counts in Jupiter as a quiz grade. This is a chance to be creative. Look at the attached rubric to be sure you are meeting the expectations of the assignment.



Setup and Punch

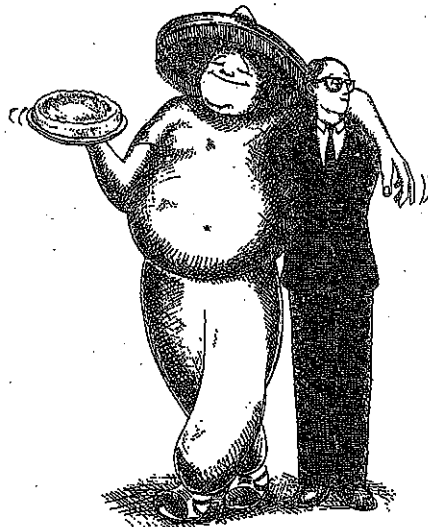
Comedic Strategy

A joke is composed of two basic parts, the setup or serious or straight line and the punch line or wacky part. Think of a man walking down the street in a tuxedo. He is walking a straight line until another man approaches and throws a pie in his face. We laugh because the man was dressed up all fancy. It would not be as funny if he were in ragged clothes. It is the straight lines that make the funny lines funnier.

When you do your we-search reports mix serious lines with funny lines, and you will find the humor gets stronger. For example, if I were writing a poem about the top ten reasons why I wouldn't want to be an ant, I might follow a real straight line like such as "I don't like working in groups," with a funnier line such as "I don't want to carry a Ford Escort on my shoulder" (since ants can carry up to twenty times their body weight). The more serious line makes the funny fact funnier.

Thinking of it another way, jokes, like paintings, stand out best on blank or neutral walls. A white wall may be boring on its own, but it shows off to good effect anything that gets hung on it. The same is true of a good straight line. It gives light and space for the funny line to grow. Comedian

Woody Allen said that the straight line was the most important part of any joke because it creates the laugh. Inexperienced comedians rush to the punch line. Old pros aren't afraid to take their time with the setup, the foundation upon which the joke is built.



3 Stray Thoughts

Have you ever looked at a photograph or painting and wondered what people were thinking? In this simple report you have a chance to use your imagination to enter the minds of famous people in history and play with their thoughts. You also get to mix the serious with the silly (tool 6).

SETUP

Find pictures of people from the historical period you are studying. Make copies of them or draw reproductions. Study the life of your subject and list some of his or her major life accomplishments.

Alexander the Great	Conquered most of the known world.
Susan B. Anthony	Fought for years to get the vote for women.
Pocahontas	Helped starving colonists at Jamestown.
George Washington	Great General of Revolutionary War;
A character from Tom Sawyer	

Now pick one person and get a blank piece of paper. Draw a line vertically down the middle of the page. On one side write the words private life, on the other, public life. After doing research on your historical person, write as many events as you can placing them in either column.

For example, I have chosen George Washington. One fact is that he is married to a woman named Martha. That would go in the private column. Another is that he was the first president of the United States. That would go in the public column. I also learned that he had false teeth made of wood (private) and that he crossed the Potomac in a daring battle move that surprised the British general Cornwallis (public). Make your list long so that you have many aspects to choose from.

PUNCH

Now get some blank white paper and cut out some oval shapes that will serve as your thought bubbles. Write stray thoughts in your bubbles and paste them above the heads of your person. Use your research to give your thoughts funny truth. Funny truth usually involves seeing the other side of a situation or event. Create thoughts from both the public and the private side of your person's life.

Funny Tip:

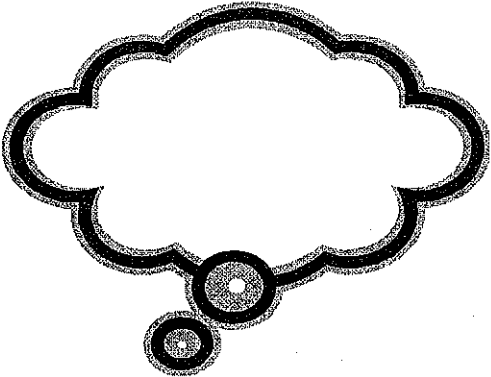
Your stray thoughts will be funnier if you mix public thoughts, private perceptions, or just dumb ones.

Example:



Procedure for Assignment

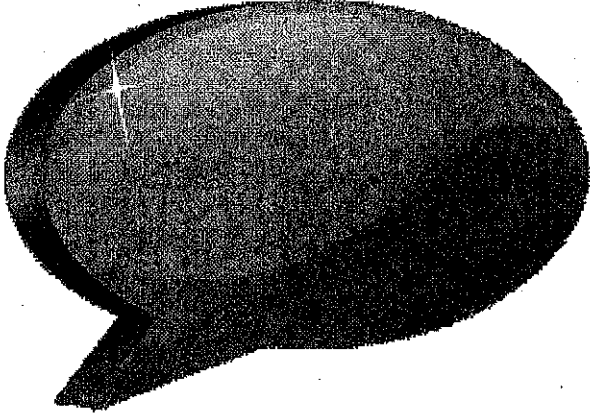
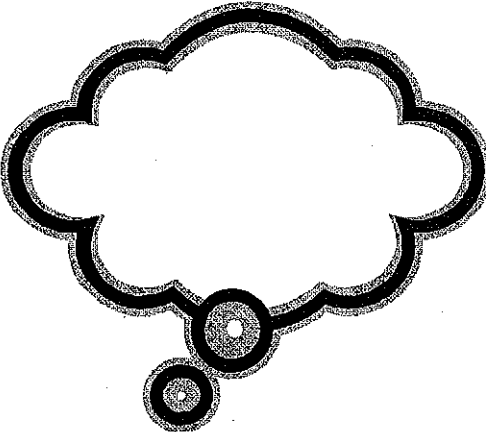
T- Chart to Plan Your Cartoon

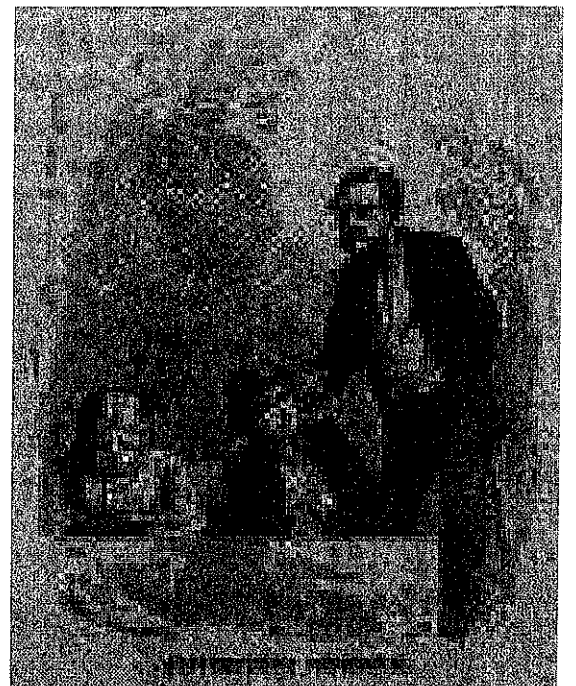
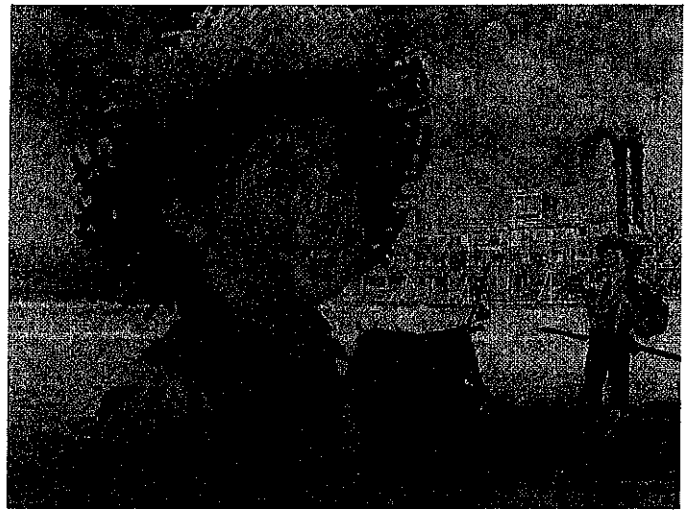


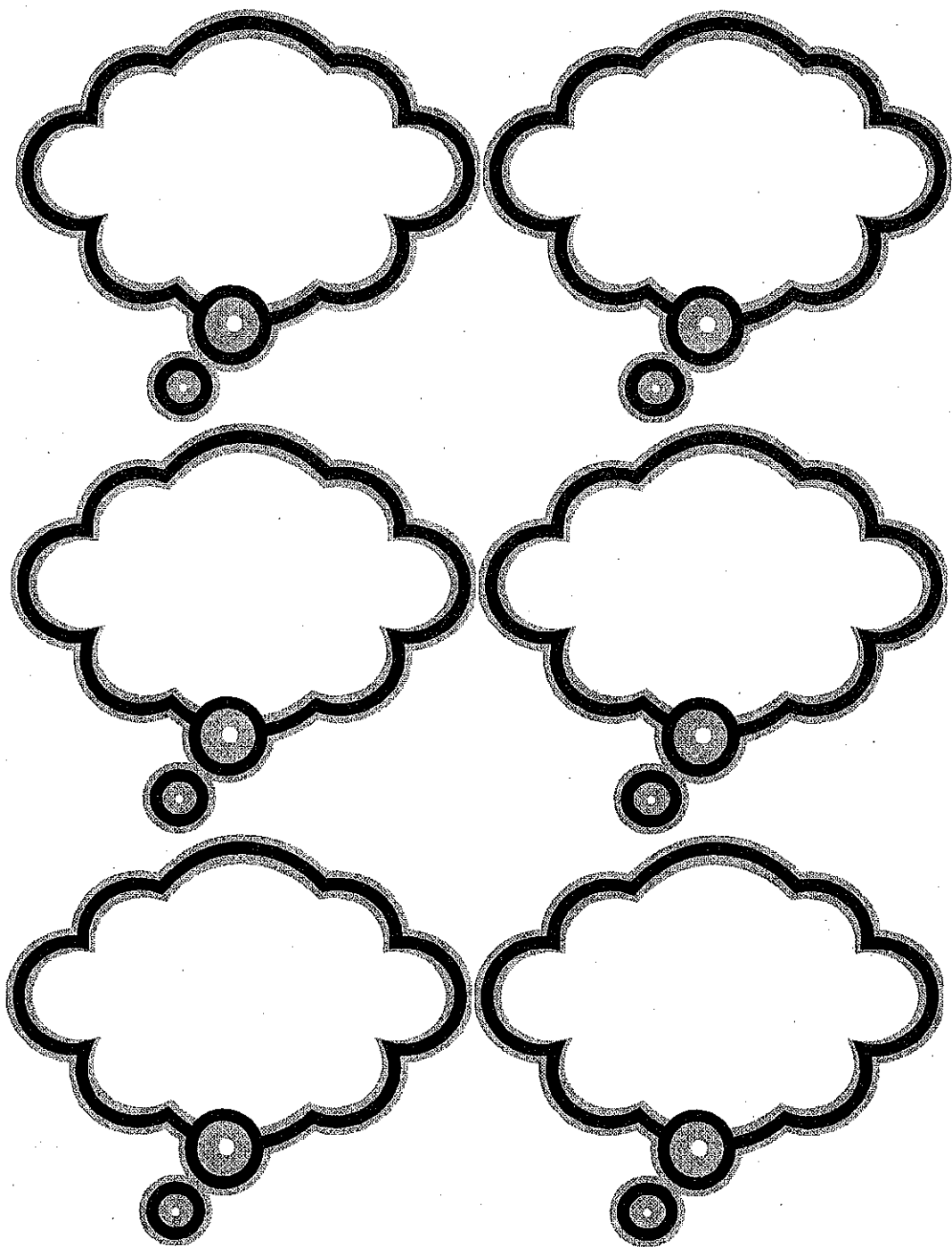
Private Thoughts of Character

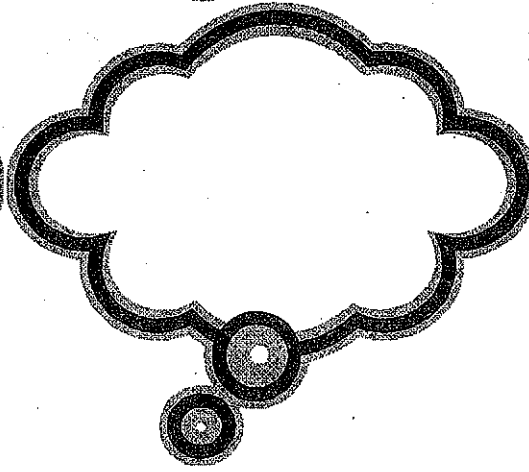
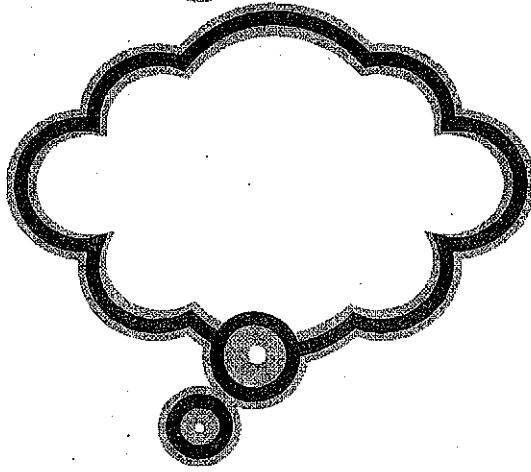
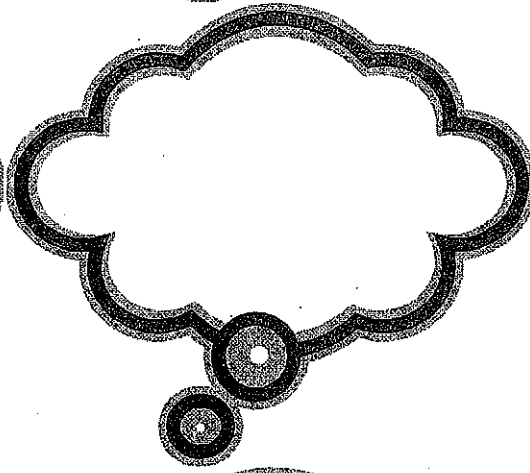
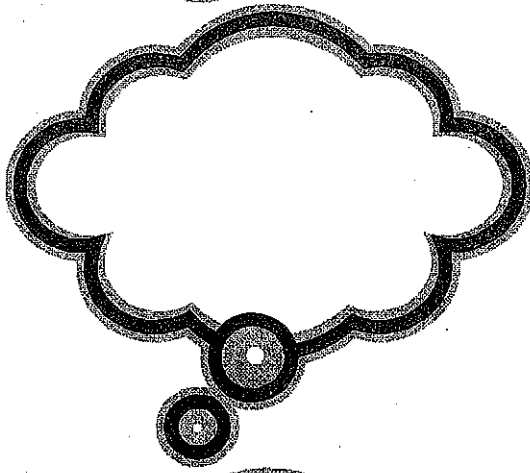
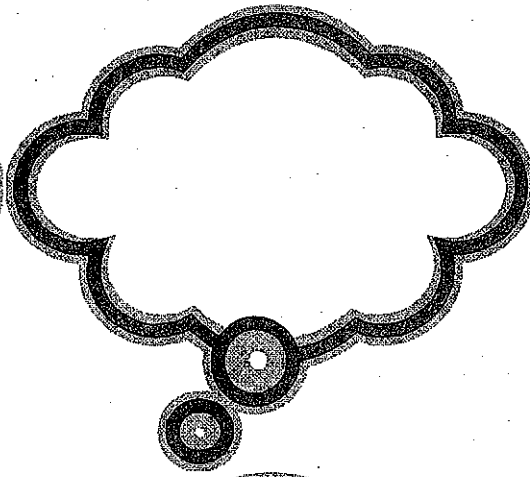
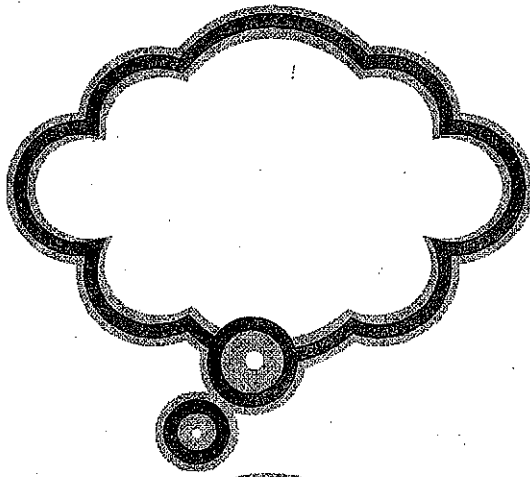
Public Thoughts of Character

Private Thoughts of Character	Public Thoughts of Character









Cartoon Rubric

Name _____

Date _____

Grade _____

CATEGORY	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Required Elements	The cartoon includes all required elements: A mixture of 6-8 well- chosen private and public thoughts to create a humorous effect.	All required elements are included on the cartoon.	All but 1 of the required elements is included on the cartoon.	Several required elements are missing.
Commitment To Project	Used class time Productively, Remained on Task, Thoughtful Approach to Selecting Details.	Productive in class, but sometimes off task. Convenience of details more the concern than the actual appropriateness of them.	Frequently off-task. Showing little care in selection of details.	Wasting class time. No follow-through at home.
Attractiveness	The cartoon is exceptionally attractive in design, layout, and neatness.	The cartoon is attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness.	The cartoon is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.	The cartoon is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. It is not attractive.

Extra Credit for finding/drawing own character: +5 (No stick figures—credit won't be assigned here unless the drawing shows care)