

Culture and Film-Teacher Guide

Directions: Have students watch [Superman-Japoteurs](#) episode. After watching the episode students will complete a worksheet and have a discussion.

Vocabulary

- Propaganda-biased or misleading information used to promote a particular political cause or point of view
- Saboteur-a person who deliberately destroys, damages, or obstructs something for political or military advantage (sabotage)
- Xenophobia- dislike or prejudice of anything foreign or different

1. What was the title of the Superman episode?

- a. Mystery of the Broken Statues
- b. Night of Terror
- c. Crime Wave
- d. Japoteurs

2. Do you think the title of this episode is a play on words? Explain.

Yes, the work Japoteurs is a play on the word saboteur. The show is calling Japanese Americans saboteurs of the American war effort. Ask students to define saboteurs if it is not already understood. Ask: Why might it be dangerous to refer to Japanese Americans as saboteurs? Was there anything to back this belief?

3. Do you think this episode is a form of propaganda or just entertainment? Explain.

This is an open ended question that can be answered either way because propaganda by nature is entertaining however, some students may argue that entertainment should not sway opinions and beliefs in the same way as propaganda. The goal of this question is to get students thinking of how entertainment, specifically media, is sending messages to us whether we realize it or not.

4. Do you think this is an example of the normalization of propaganda and xenophobia? Explain.

Again, this is another open ended question designed to foster conversation. Have students realize that most forms of entertainment contain some element of propaganda because they hold the beliefs and opinions of the creator. If the person creating the work is xenophobic there is a chance that it will show in their work. Pose the following question to students: can our entertainment be truly unbiased? Have them provide examples and defend their responses.