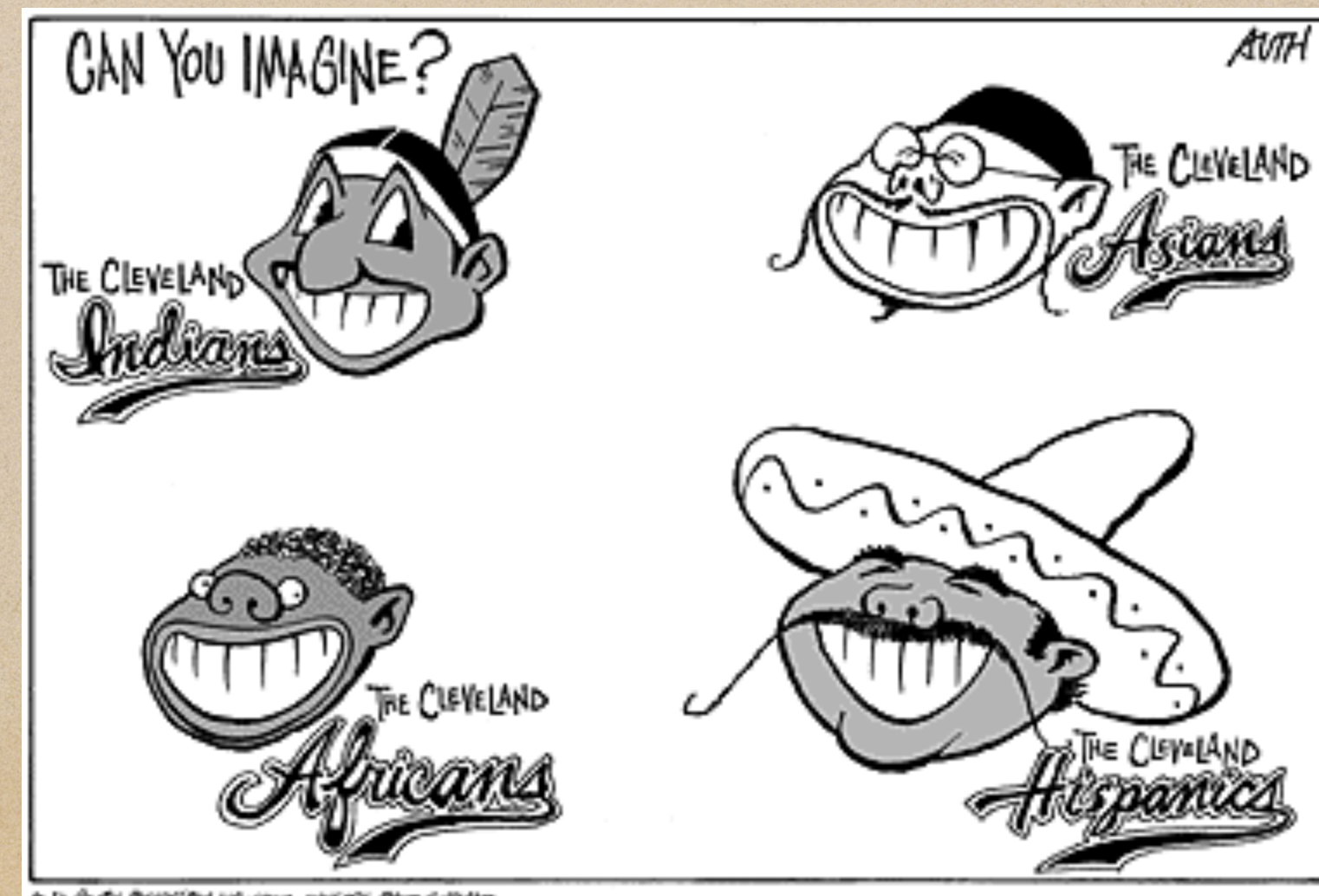


# “Got Stereotypes?”

Native American Literature K-12

Presented by Melanie Brown



Children see these images everyday



# “Got Stereotypes?”

Native American Literature contains an enormous amount of stereotyping.

Many authors are trying to dispel the stereotypes and myths.

As educators of children pre-K to post high school, we need to assist young minds in recognizing and dispelling these myths.

# “Got Stereotypes”

Common Stereotypes

Noble Indian

Lived in the Past not Present

Environmentalist/ Conservationist

At one with nature

All American Indians are portrayed as one generic Nation

Primitive

Passive

# “Got Stereotypes?”

## Historical Fiction- Key Elements

- ◆ A well told story that is historically accurate.
- ◆ Characters are realistically portrayed
- ◆ The setting is authentic.
- ◆ Historical facts are skillfully woven into the text.
- ◆ Illustrations are historically accurate and appropriate.
- ◆ Ethnic and minority groups are portrayed accurately.
- ◆ Avoid stereotypes and myths with minority groups.

# “Got Stereotypes?”

## Tips for You

### Consider different perspectives.

- ◆ Use oral tradition to fill in key gaps
- ◆ Think about how the rest of the world has been shaped by the American Encounter
- ◆ Do not leave the Wabanaki (or any Indian tribe) in the past
- ◆ Focus on inherent rights rather than “special rights”
- ◆ Avoid Tourist curriculum (focusing predominately through celebrations and seasonal holidays, and through traditional food and artifacts. It teaches in isolated units rather than in an integrated way and emphasizes exotic differences, focusing specific events rather than daily life.
- ◆ Be specific

# Author's Purpose

- ◆ Can you tell by perusing through this book, what the author's purpose is? In your opinion, is the author trying to make you understand most about
- ◆
- ◆ Government and Political Systems
- ◆ Territories
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ Economic system
- ◆
- ◆ In what ways could your book best illustrate the any of the four components of L.D.291.



# “Got Stereotypes?”

Resources

Abbe Museum

Oyate Publishers

Wabanaki Studies Commission Resource site

GoodMinds.com

# Got Stereotypes?

- ◆ Native American Literature may or may not contain stereotypes. When books do contain stereotypes, it is important to stop and discuss why. Combining this unit with the Stereotyping Unit from this kit will guide the teacher and student through the process of finding “Good” and “Bad” Native American Literature.

# Got Stereotypes?

Your Turn.

Go to your classroom/ school library and dig for books!

Begin with small group discussions and grow into whole class discussions!

Don't be afraid to "get it right", at least you are starting somewhere!