

SEE NOTE →

QUESTION

What are the messages the artist is trying to make about Lyndon Johnson? Give evidence to support your conclusion.

SUGGESTED ANSWER

He is responsible for much suffering among the Vietnamese people, but he doesn't seem to care.

EVIDENCE

Johnson is pictured in front of the U.S. soldiers, representing his role as Commander in Chief; he looks away from the scenes of abuse, reclining in a lawn chair with a drink and sunglasses in his hands ignoring the violence

QUESTION

What techniques does the artist use to stir the emotions of his audience?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

The artist includes images of U.S. soldiers dragging a man away from his family beneath an image of Hitler, soldiers praying next to a fallen body, and women and children as victims of war. The text includes: "Filmed in real blood 'n guts color" and "Price of admission: Your son."

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Why did the artist use the style of a movie poster?

How does the artist use irony to make his point?

What might a modern version of this poster look like today?

Could a grassroots artist like David Nordahl have any impact in a Presidential campaign today? Why or why not?

NOTE

The man in the lawn chair in the bottom center is President Lyndon Johnson.

ADDITIONAL INFO

After Johnson announced that he would not seek reelection, he fell into a deep depression. He said, "I've never felt lower in my life. How do you think it feels to be completely rejected by the party you've spent your life with, knowing that your name cannot be mentioned without choruses of boos and obscenities?" (Genovese 158).

CONNECTIONS

(see thematic listing)

Attack
Foreign Policy