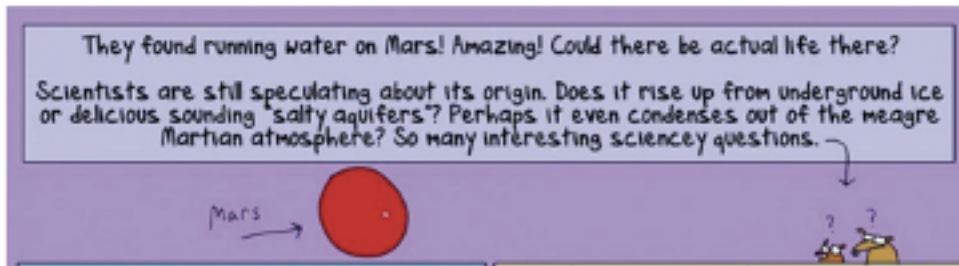


A SPECIMEN FILE FOR IB PAPER LANGUAGE ANALYSIS EXPECTATIONS

Mars water: will it be contaminated by Earth cooties¹?

Humans are amazing. We can fly a spaceship to Mars but we can't clean the Mars Rover – or Earth, for that matter?



- How do the various cartoon techniques help establish both tone and meaning?
- Comment on the ways in which this cartoon reveals uncomfortable truths about human priorities.

The **COMIC STRIP**- The Comic strip which is the **mode** of using the comic **genre** to highlight a very important message through the title: “*Mars water: will it be contaminated by Earth cooties?*” is aimed at exploring the idea of ambitious scientific ambitions and discoveries such as the finding of water on Mars! The **interrogative tone** presents the **rhetorical question**. The **caption**, “*Mars water: will it be contaminated by Earth cooties?*” indicates first the exciting finding that humans discovered water on Mars and presents the **rhetorical question** which contains the **ironic** name for creatures from the world of humans, “earth cooties”. The **title** itself, at one stroke, suggests the idea of ‘contamination’ being carried to Mars from the earth, thus **implicitly**, arousing doubts about such great discoveries.

Interestingly, the **strapline** hits at the **paradox** as it **alludes** to the ambitious and powerful human ability “to fly a spaceship to Mars” followed by the flip side of the coin that says, “we **can’t** clean the Mars Rover - or Earth, for that matter?” The **casual register** produces an **informal tone** created through the use of a **contraction**, serving the **purpose** of **circumlocution** for the underlying **paradox**. The use of

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diction is within the **contextual framework** of scientific progress versus its utility. It represents the **culture** of scientific progress at the cost of human concerns. The **shift in tones** from the **exclamatory tone** to **interrogative tone**, creates a **comic atmosphere**. The use of the **adjective phrase**, “delicious sounding salty aquifers” describes the aquifers **exaggeratedly**. The **hypothesis** made is also **interrogative in tone**. The imagination that is brought out from the hypothesis creates **humor**, serving the **function** of the comic **intent**.