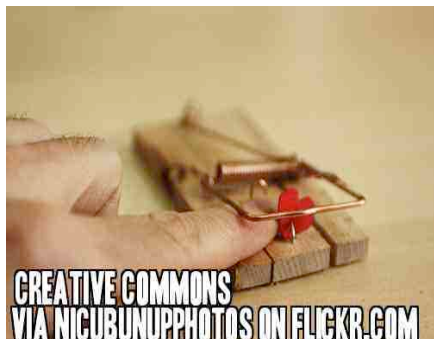


'Tom and Jerry' cartoon gets racism warning

4th October, 2014



The Internet giant, Amazon, has put a warning on some of the 'Tom and Jerry' cartoons it offers to its customers. Visitors who want to buy or download the

series 'Tom and Jerry: The Complete Second Volume' get a warning that the cartoons contain scenes that are racist. The warning says: "Tom and Jerry shorts may [show] some ethnic and racial prejudices that were once commonplace in American society." It added that the scenes were wrong when the cartoons were made 70 years ago, and are still wrong today. People say the character of the black maid in the cartoon series is racist. Some of the cartoons were edited in the 1960s because of worries about racism.

Tom and Jerry were created in 1940 by cartoonists William Hanna and Joseph Barbera. The show is about the lives of Tom Cat and Jerry Mouse, who live in the same house and are big rivals. Hanna and Barbera produced 114 Tom and Jerry cartoons from 1940 to 1957. The cartoons won the Oscar for the best Animated Short Film seven times. The shows have become one of the most popular cartoons in animation history. They are put on children's TV every day in many countries. Animation expert Steve Abraham said the quality of animation in the early Tom and Jerry cartoons was "superb". Many people posted on Twitter to say it was "madness" for Amazon to put a warning on the cartoons.

Sources: *Washington Times* / *BBC* / *Wikipedia*

Writing

It's better for children to watch documentaries and not cartoons. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Internet / giant / customers / racist / prejudices / wrong / cartoons / edited / society / cartoonists / big rivals / Oscar / popular / animation history / quality / warning

True / False

- Amazon has put a warning on all the Tom and Jerry cartoons it sells. T / F
- The warning is on cartoons people can buy or download. T / F
- Amazon said some scenes from the cartoons were wrong 70 years ago. T / F
- The Tom and Jerry cartoons have never been edited. T / F
- The Tom and Jerry cartoons were created in 1940. T / F
- The original cartoonists made 114 shows between 1940 and 1957. T / F
- The cartoons never won an Oscar at the Academy Awards. T / F
- The article says people posted on Twitter to agree with Amazon. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. warning | a. made |
| 2. contain | b. well-liked |
| 3. commonplace | c. concerns |
| 4. wrong | d. enemies |
| 5. worries | e. stupidity |
| 6. created | f. caution |
| 7. rivals | g. excellent |
| 8. popular | h. include |
| 9. superb | i. normal |
| 10. madness | j. unsuitable |

Discussion – Student A

- Why is the cartoon Tom and Jerry so popular?
- Who did you want to win in Tom and Jerry's battles?
- Do you think TV stations will stop showing Tom and Jerry?
- Which is better, animation like Tom and Jerry, or like Toy Story?
- What would you tell Amazon about its warning?
- What do you think of the quality of Tom and Jerry?
- Is the warning "madness"?
- What questions would you like to ask Amazon's boss?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. buy or download | a. Animated Short Film |
| 2. scenes that | b. racial prejudices |
| 3. ethnic and | c. cartoons was "superb" |
| 4. once | d. the series |
| 5. edited in the 1960s because of | e. it was "madness" |
| 6. big | f. commonplace |
| 7. won the Oscar for the best | g. rivals |
| 8. the most popular cartoons | h. worries about racism |
| 9. the quality of animation in the early... | i. in animation history |
| 10. people posted on Twitter to say | j. are racist |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Tom and Jerry?
- What do you think of Amazon's warning?
- Do customers need a warning for Tom and Jerry?
- Should Amazon sell things they think are racist?
- Should the Tom and Jerry cartoons be updated?
- Do you think the Tom and Jerry cartoons are racist?
- Why has it taken Amazon 20 years to decide the cartoon is racist?
- What's your favourite cartoon (animation)?

Spelling

- The Internet ntiag, Amazon
- buy or download the sirees
- hitecn and racial prejudices
- the ecssne were wrong
- the ertrhacac of the black maid
- Some of the cartoons were tdeeid
- constrsatoi Hanna and Barbera
- big larsiv
- the most aplupor cartoons
- in oniamtnai history
- the lytuqai...was superb
- people posted...to say it was ssendam

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. i	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. b	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Drawings

You think animation using drawings is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms of animation. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, puppets or computer graphics.

Role B – Clay

You think animation using clay is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms of animation. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): drawings, puppets or computer graphics.

Role C – Puppets

You think animation using puppets is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms of animation. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, drawings or computer graphics.

Role D – Computer Graphics (CG)

You think animation using computer graphics is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms of animation. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): clay, puppets or drawings.

Speaking – Animation

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Tom and Jerry | • Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles |
| • Wallace and Gromit | • Pokemon |
| • Toy Story | • The Simpsons |
| • Mickey Mouse | • SpongeBob SquarePants |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.