

Name: _____

Class: _____

Off-Site Instruction -- (10 pts)

Day 4

Magnolia Miscreants News Article

Read the attached article, "Magnolia Miscreants Strike War Memorial" and fill out the chart below.

Making Inferences

For each of the following statements, decide if they are true or false (or perhaps neither) by checking the box and then give a reason for your choice, with quotations to back up your opinion.

| Statement | True | False | Not Clear | Explanation |
|--|------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. The writer supports the actions of the graffiti artists. | | | | |
| 2. Reverend Hart feels that the vandals' actions are justified, due to the possible positive impact they might generate. | | | | |
| 3. The writer feels indifferent about the town's war memorial. | | | | |
| 4. Everyone in the town feels that the actions of the vandals are disrespectful and malicious. | | | | |

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| 5. All of the citizens in the town were uneasy about the words of Reverend Hart's sermon. | | | | |
| 6. The writer of the article highly values historical objects and stories. | | | | |
| 7. The recent incidents were actually the work of one individual | | | | |

Magnolia Miscreants Strike War Memorial

by Cyrus Honeycutt

IN what appears to be the latest incident in a string of vandal attacks on our city's most significant and cherished landmarks, the Magnolia Confederate War Memorial was last night defaced with antiwar slogans and cartoons that appear to mock Magnolia's distinguished military history.

According to a source at the Sheriff's Department, officers responded to a 911 call at 2 a.m. this morning reporting a disturbance at the monument. Upon arrival at the scene of the crime, one officer described the area surrounding the memorial as "littered with empty spray paint cans, used stencils, and pacifist propaganda material". The perpetrators, however, had already fled the scene and have not yet been apprehended.

The similarities between this assault on our town's cultural history and those that have recently taken place on the town hall, the police station and, perhaps most shocking of all, on the family mausoleums of the town's founding fathers, seem to indicate a dangerous pattern. This has already been noted by Mayor Ravenwood, who this morning released a statement condemning the desecration of civic property. (The Mayor's statement can be read in full on page 6)

Many prominent local



The area around the memorial was littered with graffiti paraphernalia.

business owners have also voiced their outrage. Miss Hattie Evesham, of Miss Hattie's Cakes and Bakes, lamented "the decline of decency and common courtesy", while Amos Barkley, owner of Amos' Autos, decried the "outright contempt for the law and our wonderful community".

However, not all of Magnolia's inhabitants view our resident reprobates in the same light. Arthur DeWitt, a Magnolia High School art teacher suggests that the vandalism could in fact be considered an act of self-expression. Mr. DeWitt even claims the repeat offenders show "remarkable talent and a real eye for color and design, reminiscent of the British graffiti artist Banksy." It is this distinctive, consistent style

that has lead Mr. DeWitt to propose the theory that Magnolia's crime wave may actually be the work of one individual and not, as our law enforcement officials believe, the coordinated actions of a gang.

This possibility will undoubtedly be received with relief by the majority of the town's citizens, particularly after the unease generated by Reverend Hart's sermon last Sunday. The Reverend has responded to calls for his reassignment by clarifying that his comments were in no way meant to justify or encourage delinquent behavior. However, he stands by his assertion that "these attacks could serve as a timely catalyst for a long-overdue conversation on race-relations and social justice in Magnolia". •