**Analysis activity 3.4: Visual analysis of political cartoons by Dr Seuss**

It is remarkable to consider that the popular children’s author Dr Seuss, with his gentle and clever rhymes and illustrations, was also a political cartoonist. But he was! He drew cartoons for an American daily newspaper called *PM* in New York, which was only produced for a short time. Seuss agreed to work as the editorial cartoonist for this tabloid because he believed he had no great causes or interest in social issues until Hitler. He worked at PM from early 1941 to January 1943. Seuss was a humanitarian who used his humour to fight powerfully against dictators, racism and the anti-Semitism of World War II. He was the master of the art of gentle persuasion. His cartoons from this short period have been published in a collection called *Dr Seuss Goes to War: the World War II editorial cartoons of Theodor Seuss Geisel* compiled by Richard H. Minear (The New Press, New York, 1999). This activity uses some of Seuss’s political cartoons.

**1** Use the CCF model to analyse Sources 3.26, 3.27, 3.28 and 3.29.

**2** What are the similarities between these images?

**3** Which one do you think is most effective?



**Source 3.24** Dr Seuss with some of his creations



**Source 3.25** The cover of *Dr Seuss Goes to War*



**Source 3.26** Dr Seuss’s perspective on the threat of Italy, Germany and Japan to the United States



**Source 3.27** Dr Seuss’s perspective on the threat of Germany and Japan to the common person



**Source 3.28** Dr Seuss’s perspective on Hitler’s territorial aggression

****

**Source 3.29** Dr Seuss’s perspective on Britain and France’s policy of appeasement