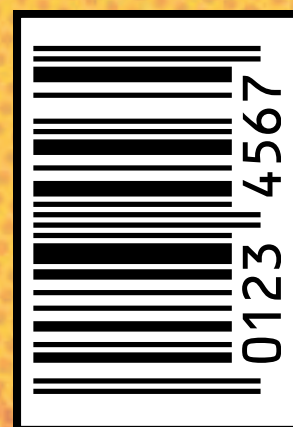


HOW COMICS

ENHANCE SOCIAL INTEGRATION



TOOLKIT



<http://esic.org.uk/>



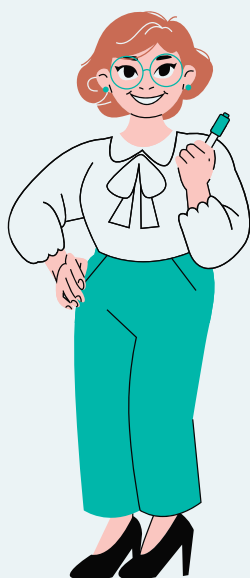
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BRITISH
COUNCIL



ENHANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION WITH COMICS



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Foundation, coordinated by CIA CIC,
project funded by the Erasmus+
program of the European Union, under
the Nr. 2020-1-UK01-KA227-YOU-
094677***



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Welcome to Project ESIC

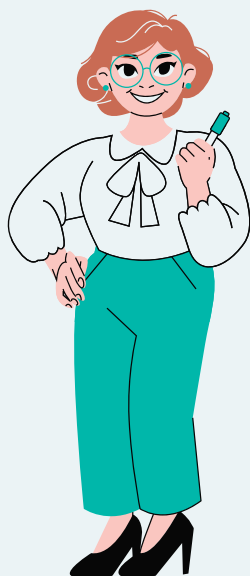
Hey there! Welcome to the TOOLKIT of ESIC Project, a project result of ESIC - ENHANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION with COMICS. Our consortium has put together this manual with the aim of encouraging youth workers and educators to incorporate comics into their daily work with young people.

The ESIC Methodology offers an easy-to-digest guide for youth workers, with chapters covering essential theoretical and practical aspects of using comics in youth work. We kick things off by introducing the basics of comics and how they can be a valuable tool. Then, you'll find guidelines on inclusivity and some interesting links, along with examples of inclusive comics addressing social issues.

It also provides concrete instructions on using comics in youth work, including "The Rules" of comic creation. Don't forget to check out our website, where you can dive into the ESIC project details and information.

If you're a youth worker looking to address specific topics using comics, helpful guidelines on interpreting the comic content. In the guideline we also offer suggestions on initiating discussions after young people have created their own comics.

Our goal is to enhance your understanding of comics, ignite your creativity, and empower you to incorporate them into your work with young people. So, get ready to embrace the world of comics and have some fun!



The project "Enhancing Social Integration with Comics - ESIC" activities took place in 4 countries across Europe those have the highest number of refugees and tackling with challenges such as UK, Turkey, France and Netherlands.

<http://esic.org.uk/>



What is Comics ?

A comic strip is a form of sequential art that consists of a series of panels or frames arranged in a linear sequence. It typically features a combination of illustrations and text, presenting a story, humor, or commentary. Comic strips are usually published in newspapers, magazines, or online platforms, and they often revolve around recurring characters or themes. Each panel within a comic strip contributes to the overall narrative or punchline, and the combination of visuals and dialogue creates a unique storytelling experience.

Why it is important to use in Youth Work ?

The ESIC project focuses on using comic creation in youth work to foster cooperative learning in a flexible and inclusive manner. In today's digital age, where technology has greatly impacted every aspect of our lives, effective communication tools can play a crucial role in societal transformation.

Youth work has always placed great importance on effective communication, allowing youth workers to understand the needs, challenges, and journeys of young people. By being a support system, offering guidance, and serving as role models and mentors, youth workers contribute to their personal growth and development. It's essential to remember that different individuals require different forms of honest communication, ranging from verbal exchanges to theater and storytelling in various formats.

Comics, with their visual language, are widely comprehensible to most people. Nowadays, comics are not just a source of entertainment but also a valuable method for teaching and learning, capable of raising awareness and disseminating information. Previous research suggests that graphic stories, with their illustrated narratives, can positively impact readers' engagement, memory retention, and conceptual learning, especially among novice learners (Akcanca 2020).

Similarly, studies have demonstrated that using comic creation as a tool can be more effective than traditional methods (Akcanca 2020). Creating comics can enhance knowledge, shape behavior, and facilitate healthier decision-making. The Comics Youth initiative in the UK, conducted on a small scale, has shown promising results by enabling young people to express themselves and explore their identities through comic creation. Additionally, consuming and creating comics promote media literacy education and contribute to overall learning and growth. Illustrations accompanying text in comics reinforce information, establish coherence, and help set the narrative's context (Akcanca 2020).

Furthermore, it's worth noting that in 2015, the United Nations transformed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, to be achieved by 2030, into comics. This initiative aimed to make the goals accessible and easy to disseminate across developed and developing regions. Comics are already frequently used as educational tools to raise awareness about these global issues, and their utilization should be further encouraged.

Comics have the potential to enhance multilaterally, motivation, content learning, and language acquisition. Students who engage with comics often exhibit increased motivation and improved attitudes toward reading. Even those who initially claim to dislike comics come to recognize their significance as a motivating tool for language learning (Anielson Barbosa da Silva, Gabriela Tavares dos Santos, Ana Carolina Kruta de Araújo Bispo, 2017).



Comics in Youth Work

Hey, youth work is all about staying on top of things and constantly improving to meet the ever-changing needs of young people. It's a field that's evolved over time, playing a crucial role in preventing social exclusion and boosting social inclusion. But let's be real, to stay relevant and effective, youth work needs to keep innovating and staying up-to-date.

Especially in today's world, where communities sometimes lack connection, empathy, and understanding, youth work steps in as a powerful force. It's during uncertain times and crises that we realize the importance of staying connected and how the well-being of the entire community affects everyone's security.

Here's the thing: young people often get overlooked when it comes to personal support, understanding, and education. It's not just about formal settings; it's about helping them navigate self-awareness, self-knowledge, relationships, and setting boundaries. That's why youth workers need to be prepared, open-minded, and understanding—ready to connect, reach out, and provide the support that's needed.

Now, let's talk about comics in youth work. They're like secret weapons! Comics can help us understand complex and sensitive issues, acting as a preliminary reading activity. They can even take classic literature to a whole new level by giving examples of derivative fiction or making clever allusions (Akcanca 2020). When used correctly, comic books and graphic novels have this superpower—they can build bridges between cultures, languages, and foster understanding.

So, let's harness the power of comics and make youth work even more AWESOME ! ! ! ! !



About METHODOLOGY

Alright, let's dive into the nitty-gritty of the comics methodology for youth workers. This thing is designed to be a user-friendly guide, with materials that you can gobble up real quick. We gotta keep up with our ever-changing world, right?

Using comics as a tool in youth work is gonna be a game-changer for all those folks involved—youth workers, youth organizations, educators—you name it. It'll help them level up their approaches, embrace new perspectives, and become more flexible and connected with the young peeps they're working with.

Youth workers and organizations are always hustling to keep up with the lightning-fast transformation of young people. They've tried various methods and tools to meet the needs of their beneficiaries. And guess what? Creating comics, guided by a thorough, detailed, and systematic manual, is gonna be another ace up their sleeves. It's gonna make youth work even cooler worldwide.

Now, why comics, you ask? Well, there are two big reasons. First, comic strips are adaptable to different situations and way more flexible than other communication tools. And second, they have this special knack for capturing attention and delivering social messages to a wide range of people, especially teenagers and young adults. It's like hitting the sweet spot.

But that's not all! This methodology for inclusive youth work through comics is gonna cover all sorts of demographic groups. It's designed to be super inclusive, reaching folks from different backgrounds. And the best part? You can apply it in all sorts of settings. Whether you're working with people who have speech impediments, prefer visual illustrations over text or audio, or even youngsters facing language barriers, this methodology has got you covered.

So, get ready to unleash your creativity and bring some innovation to your youth work. With comics in the mix, you'll be taking things to a whole new level!

Methodology includes;

Let's see what is in the store of the Methodology :)

First off, we got some youth worker-friendly info on comics. It's all about sparking interest, creating understanding, and making you appreciate the awesomeness of comics.

Then we dive into the practical stuff. We got demonstrations and guidelines on how to actually use comics in inclusive youth work. And guess what? We're hooking you up with templates and examples of comics that you can freely use and adapt to any situation. Talk about flexibility, right?

Oh, and we can't forget about the online platform. We'll guide you on how to use the comic book creation tool like a boss. It's gonna be a blast!

Now, inclusivity is key here. We got your back with a special guide on how to include people from all sorts of demographic groups. We're talking about making sure everyone feels represented and included.

But hold up, there's more! When it comes to art, like comics, everyone sees things differently. So, we'll help you interpret the comics created by the young ones. We'll tackle recurring themes, inappropriate language—anything that might come up. Art is a powerful way to express oneself, and we'll make sure you're equipped to understand it.

Last but not least, get ready to embrace a form of art that knows no bounds. Comics go beyond language barriers and cultural differences. We're gonna empower you, youth workers, and the young peeps, to get creative and inclusive. Let's break some boundaries together!

Get ready for a wild ride with this Methodology. It's gonna take your youth work to a whole new level!

What are Comics ?

Alright, let's dive into the wild world of comics!

So, comic books aren't just about silly humor. They're way more than that. We can't put them in a neat little genre box because they've got serious and dark scenarios too. It's like they're a whole universe of their own, you know?

Now, don't be fooled by the stereotypes. Comics are no underground geek thing. The comic book market is worth a whopping \$7.14 billion! Can you believe it? Comics have been around since way back, like ancient Egypt kind of back, where they used images called hieroglyphs to communicate and tell stories. Even European tapestries in the Middle Ages got in on the storytelling action.

Fast forward to the 18th century when paper and printing got all fancy, and illustrations became more accessible. But it was in 1830, in Geneva, that the first proper comic strips were born, thanks to the genius of Rodolphe Töpffer. He didn't call them comic strips though, he called them "Literature in Print." Fancy, huh? It's like a predecessor to the modern "Graphic Novel."

Then, in the late 19th century, comic strips started showing up in newspapers in the good ol' US of A. They became a great way for immigrants to get acquainted with American culture and fit right in. And you know what? They were pretty darn colorful and attractive back then.

In France, at the start of the 20th century, comics made their way into children's newspapers, capturing the hearts of young readers. But you know what? Some fancy-pants cultural folks looked down on comics because they thought they were just for kids. Little did they know, comics were the gateway to literature for many famous writers and Nobel Prize winners. Yeah, you heard that right. Even the big shots got inspired by comics!

So there you have it, the fascinating history of comics in a nutshell. It's a wild ride that spans centuries and continents. Get ready to immerse yourself in the colorful, action-packed world of comics!

As a useful tool for Youth Work

Alright, let's get real and break it down for you.

Even the seasoned youth workers sometimes need to go back to the basics, you know? It's like hitting the reset button. So, what exactly is a youth worker? Well, the European Commission doesn't have a clear definition for it. Surprise, surprise! Each country has its own take on it. Talk about a lack of unity.

But in England, they've got a pretty solid idea. According to the National body for Youth Work, youth work is all about taking a holistic approach with young people. It's about giving them a choice to engage with professionals. Youth workers are the ones who usually work with young folks aged between 11 and 25. Their gig is all about promoting personal and social development, giving young people a voice, and helping them find their place in society. It's about building resilience, character, and giving them the skills they need to rock at life.

Youth work offers safe spaces for young people to explore who they are, make decisions, gain confidence, and learn how to deal with the consequences of their actions. It's about empowering them to make better choices, change their ways, and achieve awesome outcomes. And let me tell you, this stuff matters to society as a whole. It's no joke.

Now, let's talk comics. They're like the Swiss Army knife of youth work. They offer a creative space where young people can let their imaginations run wild without worrying about judgment. In art, there's no right or wrong answer like in school. And for those who've had a rough time academically, comics open up a whole new world where they're not labeled as failures.

But that's not all. Comics can also raise awareness about important social issues. They can educate young people about stuff like sex ed, bullying, addiction, domestic violence, disabilities, and racism. The combination of powerful images and engaging texts helps them understand these crucial topics better.

And guess what? Comics can help young people develop mad skills too! Reading and concentration? Check. Communication? Check. Writing? Check. Problem-solving? Check. Even their scientific knowledge can get a boost, thanks to comics. It's like a fun way to spark curiosity and learn cool stuff.

And let's not forget the therapeutic side of art. Art has always been a way for people to work through their emotional baggage. But you know what? Youth workers have been a bit slow on the uptake with art therapy. They're sometimes lagging behind when it comes to incorporating new and innovative approaches. But hey, we're here to change that!

So, dear youth worker, we hope reading this guide will inspire you to embrace the power of comics in your work with young people. It's time to get creative and make a real impact!

CAN BE HELPFUL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Alright, let's dive into the world of comics and how they can be a powerful tool for expressing thoughts, feelings, and problems. People use comics to unleash their creativity and express themselves. And you know what? Sometimes, just reading a comic can make you realize that you're not alone in your struggles. It's like finding characters who go through the same stuff as you and look just like you. It's like a shortcut to dealing with your issues.

Now, let's talk about mental health. Depression and anxiety are hitting young people hard these days. It's no joke. But thankfully, there are comics out there that tackle these issues head-on and are super accessible to young folks. They provide a sense of comfort and remind readers that they're not alone in this fight. Even though these comics are based on fictional characters, they show how others in similar situations deal with their problems. It's like building up emotional resilience, one page at a time. And hey, if you're dealing with loss or grief, there are comics for that too. They can offer solace and understanding.

But comics don't stop there. They can be a game-changer for children and young people with autism who struggle with learning difficulties. These amazing kids, who are super talented at drawing, can use comics as a medium to express their own emotions and overcome their challenges. It's like giving them a voice in a world that's often hard to navigate. And let's not forget about dyslexic children. Traditional books can be a real headache for them, but comics? Oh, they're a breath of fresh air. When they manage to read a whole page of a comic, it's like a victory. It boosts their confidence and makes them feel accomplished.

So, in a nutshell, comics let young people explore their emotions, connect with others, and sometimes even become the person they want to be. They're like a secret world where you can navigate through your own struggles and share them with others. It's a powerful way to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others who are going through similar difficulties. Comics have got your back!



Enhancing Social Integration with Comics

Concrete examples from different settings including gender, people of color, people with mental disabilities, people with mobility disabilities, etc. Creating a comprehensive and supportive strategy plan to ensure effective and fruitful collaboration, with the goal of integrating young people from different settings and incorporating innovative practices/ methodologies in digital youth work, it appears vital to specify these different settings:

- cultural differences - young immigrants or refugees or descendants from immigrant or refugee families; young people belonging to a national or ethnic minority;
- economic obstacles - young people with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system; NEETS (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training); youth in long-term unemployment or poverty;
- geographical obstacles - young people from remote or rural areas; young people from less serviced areas (e.g. limited public transport, poor facilities, abandoned villages);
- social obstacles - young people facing discrimination because of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, etc.; young people with limited social skills or in a precarious situation.

Can be used AS;

COMICS ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITIES:

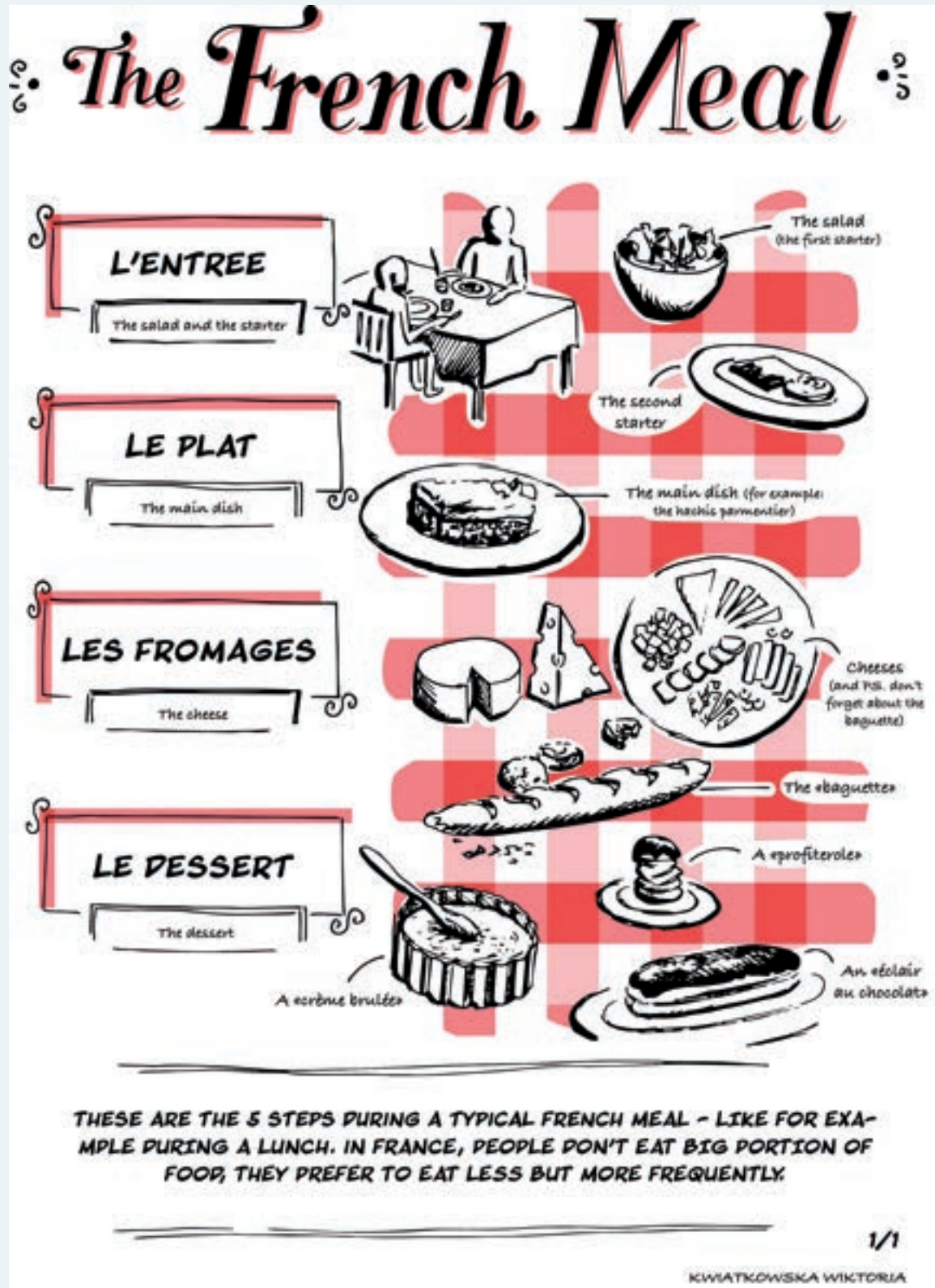
COMICS ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS:

COMICS ADDRESSING COLOR DISCRIMINATION:

COMICS TACKLING MENTAL HEALTH:

COMICS ADDRESSING MOBILITY DISABILITIES:

Examples of our Participants



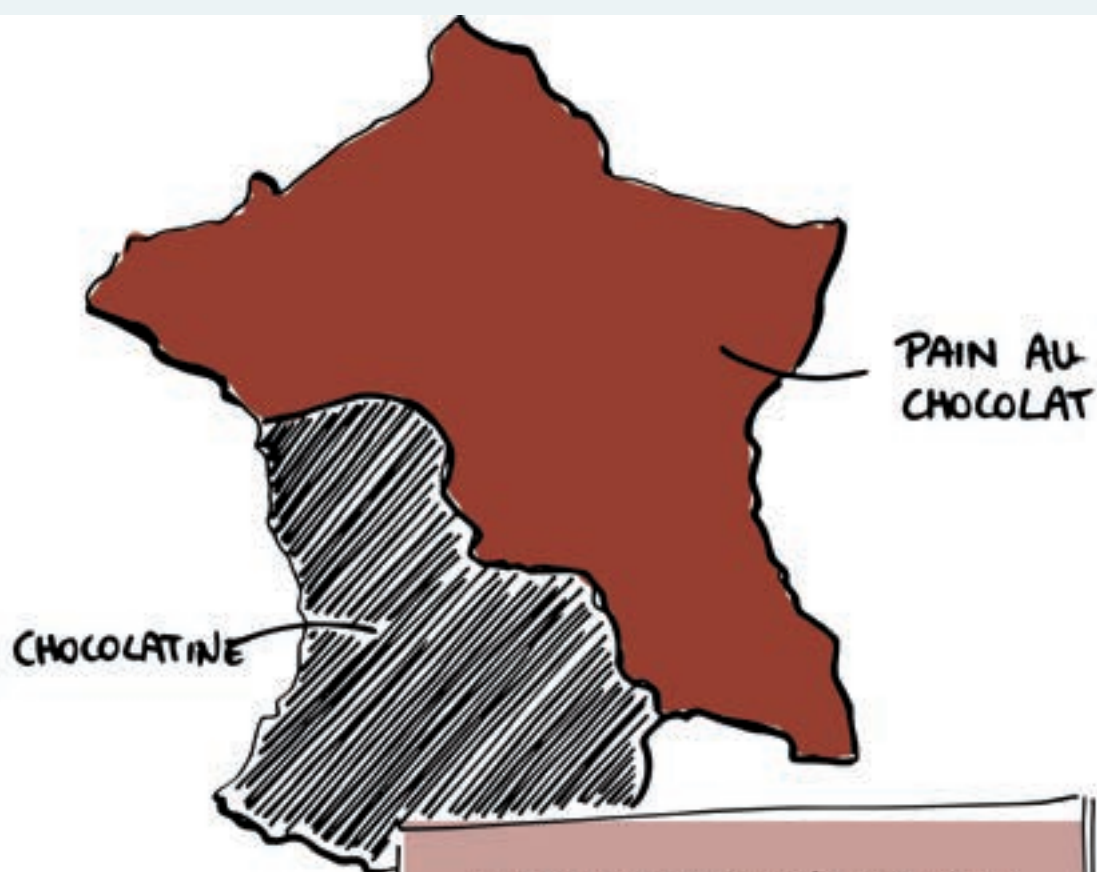




WANDERING IN THE UNKNOWN







Now go to a Boulangerie and order a «CHOCOLATINE», or should I say a «PAIN AU CHOCOLAT»?

NOW, WHICH SITUATION DO YOU PREFER ?



**SO BE AWARE OF WHAT ARE YOU TELLING TO WHO !
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY IF YOU
DON'T WANT TO MAKE SOMEONE VERY MAD AT YOU !**

« La bise »





In France, we all do «la bise» all the time and to everyone. It's our way to say «hi» but also «bye».

SO, HOW TO DO «LA BISE» ?



SO WHEN THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE YOUR FRIENDS JUST DO
« La bise »

2/2

KWIATKOWSKA WIKTORIA

<http://esic.org.uk/>

L'APÉRO



WHEN YOU'RE INVITED FOR
DINNER AT ...



THE MEETING WILL ALWAYS START WITH *l'apéro*

AND THIS IS WHAT WILL PROBABLY HAPPEN...



1/2

KWIATKOWSKA WIKTORIA



3 HOURS LATER ...

Mommy ...
I'm really
hungry ! When
will we eat ?

Yes, I know.
Maybe just wait a
few second more...



Maybe we should eat !
Come on everybody,
let sit at the table, we
are going to eat !

DURING THIS TIME...

Oh... my baby
is sleeping

**THE "APERO" IS A FRENCH SPECIALITY.
WHEN YOU'RE INVITED TO A DINNER DON'T BE IN A RUSH TO EAT YOUR MEAL
BECAUSE BEFORE THAT, YOU WILL HAVE TO CONSUME A LITTLE ALCOHOL
AND EAT SOME CHARCUTERIE WITH CRISPS DURING OUR FAMOUS "APERO"!**

EXPRESSIONS WITH A 😊 POSITIVE MEANING

There are a few expressions with negative sentences but with positive meanings only in spoken french

Look, I bought a new tablet today



Okay, C'est pas mal! (Not bad!)
- c'est bien! (That's good!)

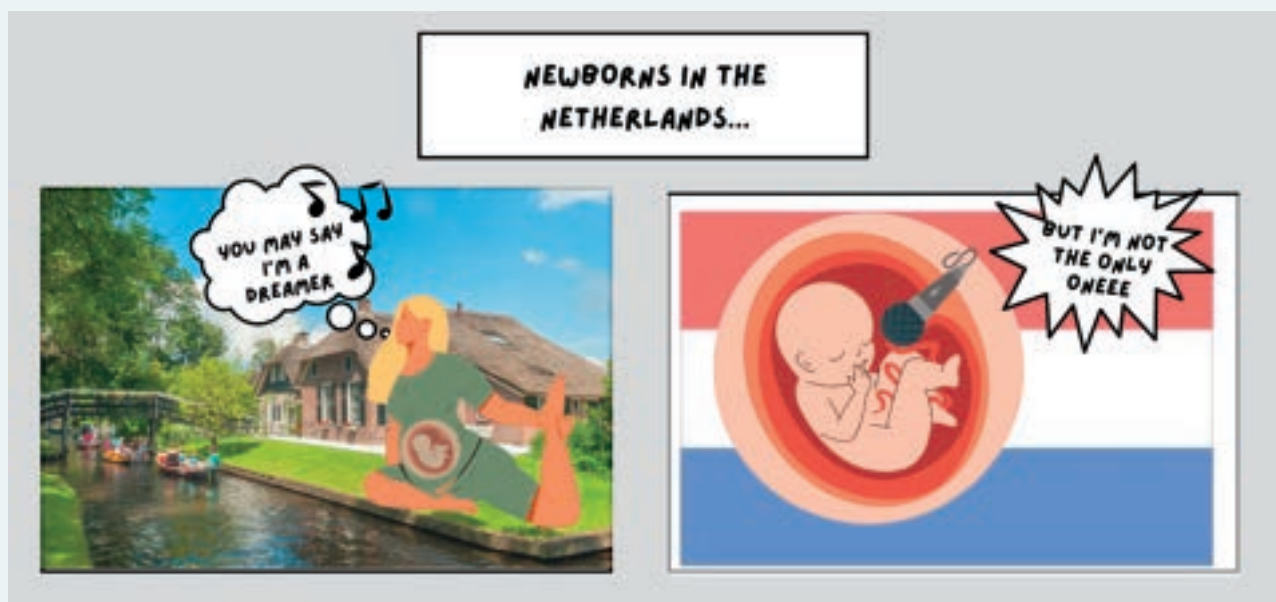


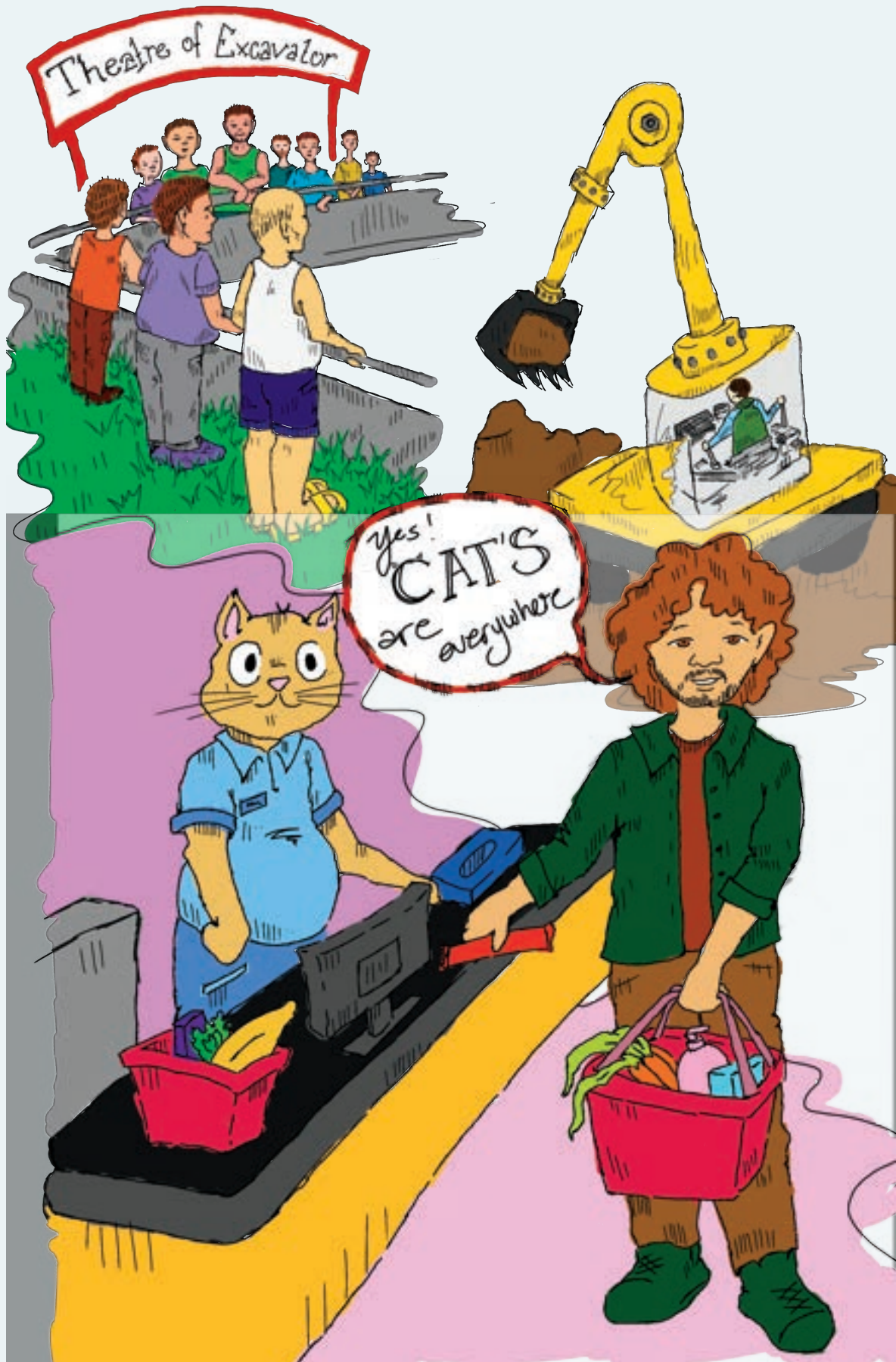
Oh sorry,
I forgot to bring your book.



C'est pas grave! (It doesn't matter!)
- Ça n'a pas d'importance! (It doesn't matter!)

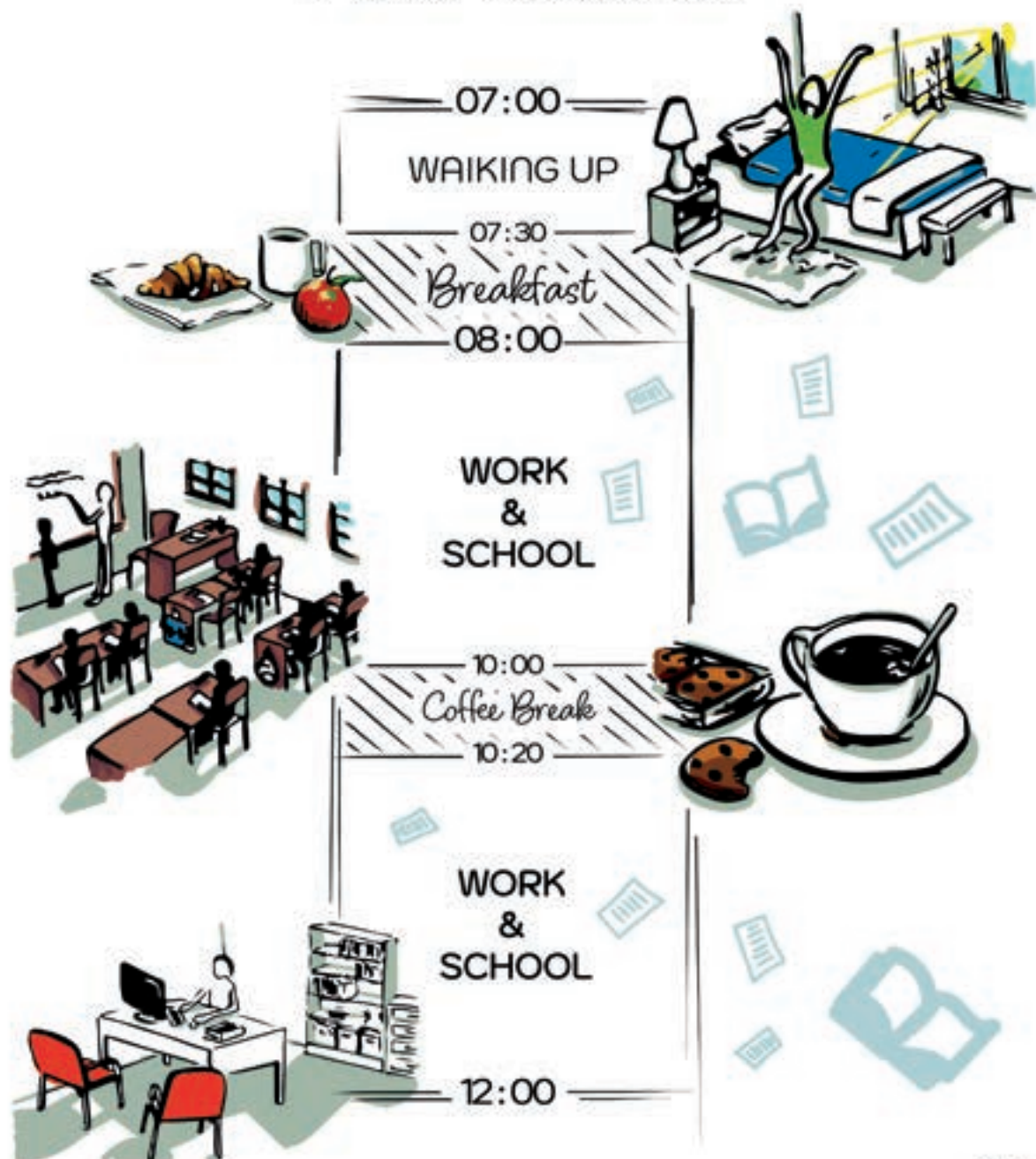


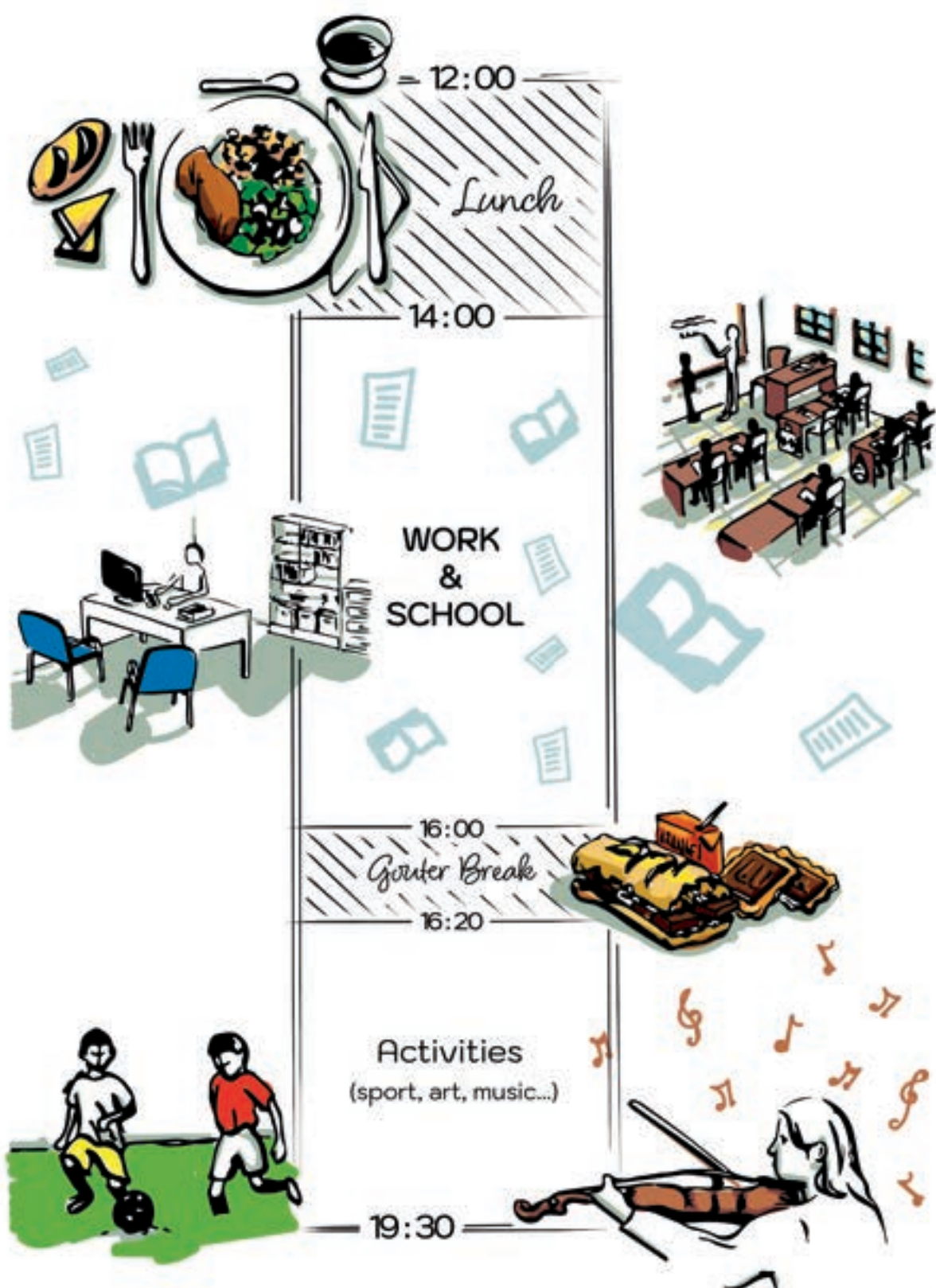


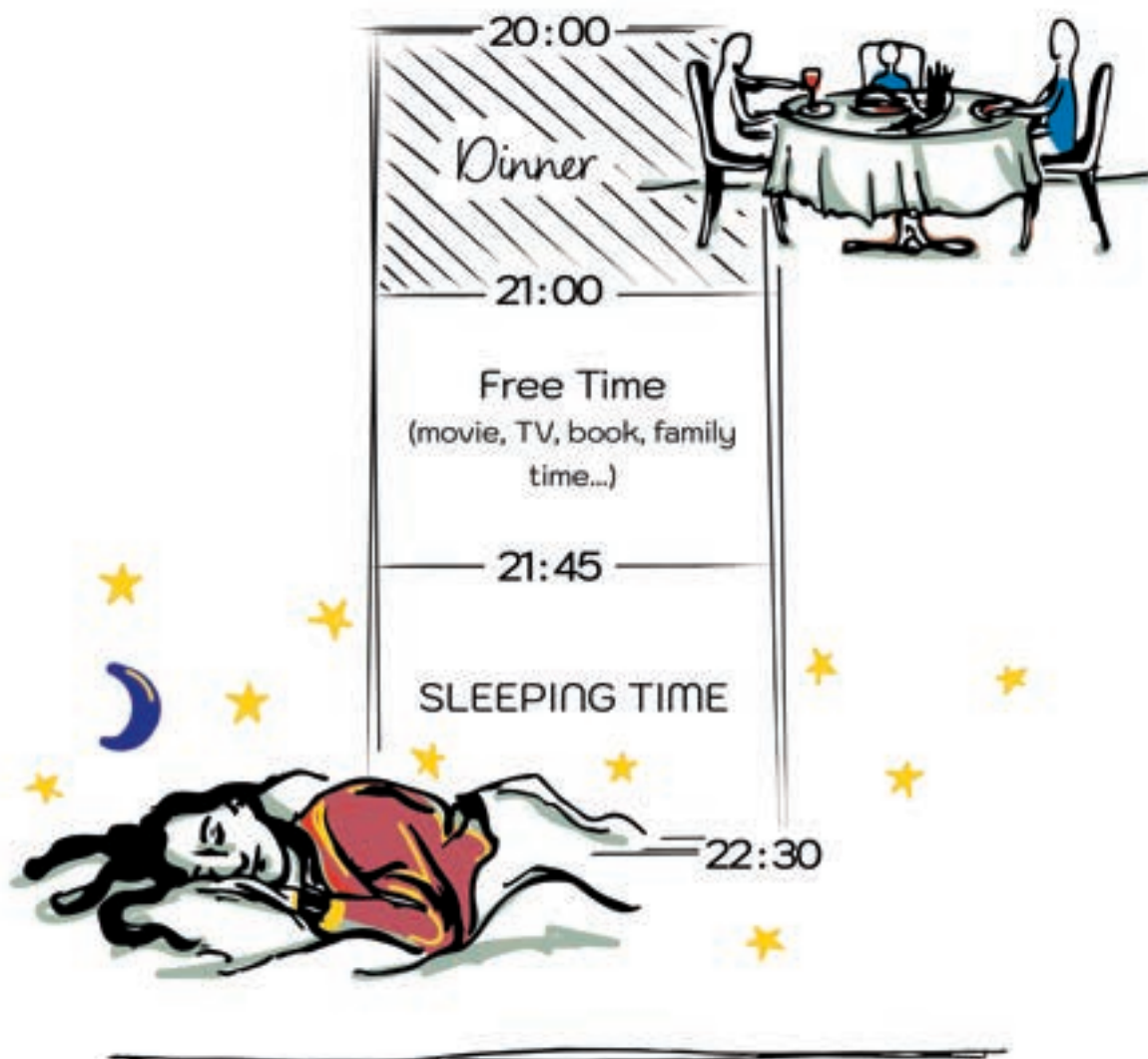


A DAY

in a French life







IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LIVE LIKE A FRENCH PERSON YOU NEED TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTINE. IT WON'T PROBABLY DIFFER AS MUCH AS IN THE OTHER COUNTRY BUT ONE THING IS SURE, YOU NEED TO RELAX, ENJOY YOUR TIME AND ENJOY ALL YOUR BREAKS DURING THE DAY.

AS YOU PROBABLY HEAR IT YET, WE HAVE A 2 HOURS LUNCH BREAK EVERYDAY AT 12:00. IT ALLOW US TO SPLIT THE DAY IN TWO AND ENJOY COMFORTABLY OUR MEAL. SO I CAN ONLY RECOMMEND YOU TO ENJOY THIS TIME AND RECOVER FROM THE MORNING TO BE BETTER PREPARE FOR THE AFTERNOON.

How to address ecology, religion, politics, gender & sex, culture, economy for inclusion through the use of comics

Hey, did you know that comic books are no longer just for die-hard superhero fans or Sunday morning laughs? Nope, they've become a powerful tool in the hands of young activists fighting against discrimination, human rights violations, climate change, and social injustice. These aren't your typical comics anymore!

Over the years, comics have grown up alongside their readers. They've evolved from pure fantasy to tackling a wide range of social issues, even addressing everyday problems. And hey, let's break the stereotype that comics are only for white dudes. The field has become more diverse, with writers and artists from all walks of life entering the scene. This diversity adds to the richness and influence of comics because representation matters, my friend.

The beauty of comics is that they can reach a wide range of age groups and cover just about anything while keeping the story engaging. They have the freedom to talk about poverty, crises, COVID-19, human rights, art, and the environment. In other words, they can tackle the everyday issues that affect and should concern all of us. The combination of text and images in graphic novels can convey emotions and issues in a way that words alone sometimes can't.

Think about it—heroes in comics often face dilemmas and challenges that we can relate to. They're put in situations where they have to navigate the gray areas and make tough choices. They strive to follow society's moral norms, even when it's not easy. Take Iron Man and his battle with alcoholism, Spider-Man's friend dealing with addiction, or Green Arrow's ward struggling with drugs. These stories shed light on social problems that real people face, like poverty, crime, and war.



But it's not just about superheroes. Captain America, for example, has evolved over time to reflect the changing definition of the "good fight." He fought against Nazis for freedom in the 1940s, but when he came back in the 1960s, he was anti-war due to personal losses. And let's not forget the X-Men—they tackle issues like racism and bigotry in a unique way by using mutants as a metaphor for societal outcasts.

Oh, and it's high time superhero comics start embracing different cultures and civilizations. We need more representation and heroes from diverse backgrounds. Everyone deserves to see their own culture in a heroic light without bias or prejudice.

So yeah, comics have become a force to be reckoned with. They're not just entertaining, but they're also a way to spread awareness about social issues that matter to us all. It's like activism in the form of ink and paper. Pretty cool, huh?

How to Include Young People

1. Embrace Cultural Diversity: Let's create comics that celebrate different cultures. Include characters from immigrant or refugee backgrounds, ethnic minorities, or those struggling with cultural adaptation. By representing their stories and experiences, we can foster understanding and promote inclusion.

2. Break Economic Barriers: We can't forget about young people facing economic hardships. Let's highlight characters dealing with low income, reliance on social welfare, or even homelessness and financial difficulties. By shedding light on their struggles, we can raise awareness and empathy.

3. Tackle Social Obstacles: Discrimination sucks, and comics can help address it. Introduce characters facing discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. Let's also explore social issues like limited social skills, high-risk behaviors, or precarious situations. By showcasing diverse characters, we promote acceptance and understanding.

4. Amplify Voices: It's essential to listen to young people and let their voices be heard. Involve them in the creative process of making comics. Seek their input, ideas, and perspectives. By actively engaging them, we empower them to tell their own stories and contribute to the narrative.

5. Collaborate and Co-create: Partner with organizations, community groups, or individuals who work directly with young people from different backgrounds. Together, we can ensure that the comics we create are authentic, respectful, and truly representative of their experiences.

6. Foster Inclusivity: Make sure your comics are accessible to everyone. Consider language barriers and provide translations when necessary. Ensure that the artwork and content are inclusive, sensitive, and respectful. Let's create a space where everyone feels welcome and represented.

7. Spread Awareness: Use comics as a tool to raise awareness about social issues. Address topics like poverty, crisis, human rights, climate change, and more. By educating and informing through engaging storytelling, we can inspire readers to take action and make a positive impact.

Including Young People from Diverse Background

Alright, listen up! When it comes to including young people from diverse backgrounds in comics, respect is key. Here are some down-to-earth tips that may not be official, but they sure make a difference:

1. **Respect Cultural Differences:** Embrace the beauty of different cultures represented in comics. Be aware of your own beliefs and biases, and approach cultural exchanges with an open mind. Let's create a safe and respectful space where everyone feels comfortable and valued.
2. **Language Matters:** Comics can bridge language barriers and make science more accessible. Recognize the importance of a young person's home language and be open to using multiple languages. Let's make comics a tool that speaks to young people from different backgrounds.
3. **Understand the Struggles:** Life can be tough, especially for young people. Acknowledge the unique challenges faced by individuals from refugee or migrant backgrounds. By recognizing and addressing these difficulties, we can offer support and understanding.
4. **No More Stereotyping:** Break free from stereotypes and embrace diversity. Educate yourself about different groups of people and challenge your own preconceptions. Let's foster empathy and treat everyone with respect, regardless of their gender or cultural background.

Remember, these guidelines may not be official, but they reflect the importance of respect and inclusivity. By creating an environment where young people from diverse backgrounds feel valued and heard, we can make comics a powerful tool for unity and understanding. Now go out there and let your creativity shine!

How to Organize Workshop with Comics

1. Comic Jam Session: Invite participants to bring their own comic ideas or characters and create a collaborative comic together. Provide materials such as paper, pens, and markers, and encourage participants to share their stories, draw panels, and exchange ideas.

2. Comic Creation Stations: Set up different stations where participants can engage in various aspects of comic creation. For example, have a station for character design, another for panel layout, and a third for dialogue writing.

3. Comic Book Club: Form a group where comic enthusiasts can come together to discuss and analyze their favorite comics. Choose a theme or genre for each session and encourage participants to bring their favorite comic books to share.

4. Cosplay and Comics Workshop: Combine the world of comics with cosplay by organizing a workshop where participants can learn to create their own comic-inspired costumes. Provide materials, tutorials, and guidance on crafting techniques such as prop-making, costume sewing, and makeup application. Participants can showcase their creations and share their experiences with other attendees.

5. Comic Zine Workshop: Zines are small, self-published magazines that often feature comics, illustrations, and written content. Host a workshop where participants can learn about zine-making and create their own comic zines. Provide materials like paper, pens, and art supplies, and encourage participants to share their stories, ideas, and artwork within the zines.

Remember, the informal nature of these workshops allows for flexibility and creativity. Adapt and customize these ideas based on the interests and preferences of your participants. The goal is to create a relaxed and enjoyable environment where comics can be explored and celebrated.

Before Organizing a Workshop

When it comes to making learning fun, we need to break free from the boring stuff. Imagine sitting through uninspiring actors or staring at subpar photos—it's a recipe for instant distraction! But fear not, because we've got a secret weapon: instructional comics!

Comics have a way of captivating our imagination like nothing else. With their simplified and relatable characters, they draw us into a world where disbelief takes a backseat. Sure, visuals are still important, but comics have this timeless style that hooks us in and lets us immerse ourselves in the content.

So, ditch those snooze-inducing videos and bland photos. It's time to unleash the power of comics and give learners an experience they won't forget. Get ready for a wild ride where you'll be laughing, learning, and getting lost in the awesome world of instructional comics!

Remember, we're here to break the mold and make learning an adventure. So, buckle up and prepare for an unforgettable journey where you'll discover that education doesn't have to be boring. Let the magic of comics take you on a ride you won't want to end!

<http://esic.org.uk/>



ANSWER THE 5WS AND 1H QUESTIONS

Alright, here's a more informal version answering the 5Ws and 1H questions for organizing a workshop with comics:

1. WHO's the gang behind this epic comic workshop? Well, it's a bunch of comic geeks and creative nerds, including yours truly! We're organizing, hosting, and inviting fellow comic enthusiasts to join us for a day of comic book madness.

2. So, WHAT's the deal with this workshop? It's a super chill gathering where we'll dive deep into the awesomeness of comics. We'll explore different art styles, share tips and tricks, and even create our own kick-ass comic characters. It's a chance to let our inner comic book heroes shine!

3. Alright, buckle up for the important question: WHEN is this happening? We're planning to throw this party on a weekend, when we can all escape the mundane world and unleash our creativity. Stay tuned for the exact date because we're still ironing out the details.

4. Now, let's talk about WHERE this comic extravaganza will go down. We're scouting for the perfect spot that screams "comic vibes." It could be a rad community center, a funky loft, or maybe even a secret hideout. We'll make sure it's a place that gets our creative juices flowing.

5. WHY are we hosting this workshop, you ask? Because we're crazy about comics and want to share our passion with others who feel the same way! We believe in the power of storytelling through comics and want to create a space where people can learn, connect, and geek out together.

6. Finally, let's dive into the HOW of this workshop. Picture this: we'll have interactive sessions filled with doodling, brainstorming, and wild imagination. We'll bring loads of art supplies, comic books for inspiration, and snacks to keep our energy levels high. It'll be a laid-back, no-pressure atmosphere where everyone can express themselves and have a blast!

So, get ready to embrace your inner comic nerd and be part of an unforgettable workshop. Stay tuned for more updates and prepare for a day filled with laughter, creativity, and maybe even a few superhero sightings!

NEXT SET OF STEPS TO ORGANIZE COMICS WORKSHOP

1. DEFINE THE TOPIC OF THE WORKSHOP

Alright, folks, it's time to dig deep and find a topic that'll blow minds! Do some research and uncover those areas that need a fresh perspective. Look for topics that'll enlighten and captivate your target group. Oh, and don't forget to hunt down those kick-ass comics that perfectly align with your chosen topic. Seek advice from the pros and maybe even arrange a meeting with those experienced in the field. Let's bring some comic-powered enlightenment!

2. ATTENDANCE LIST

Now, listen up, party planners! It's useful to have an attendance list handy, especially if you're expecting a wild crowd. But hey, don't sweat it if things change along the way. Sometimes life throws surprises, and that's okay! If you're hosting an event without a guaranteed audience, gather some juicy statistics and average attendance ratings to get a feel for your workshop's vibe. Let's get ready to rock and roll with the right crowd!

3. DEFINE YOUR TEAM

Remember, superheroes, teamwork makes the dream work! Even if it's just your buddies or colleagues joining the fun, find some volunteers who are up for the adventure. Start by roping in your stakeholders and see what they can bring to the table. Get together for weekly meetings, estimate the time commitments, and divide those tasks like true champions. The key is to collaborate effectively and conquer this workshop like the superheroes you are!

4. DEFINE YOUR EXPERTISE

Time to assemble your workshop dream team, people! Decide who's going to be the ultimate presenter, the speaker who'll blow minds and drop knowledge bombs. Reach out to those inspirational folks you admire, those who have wisdom to share and experiences that'll leave everyone in awe. Let's make sure our expertise is top-notch and ready to ignite some serious comic passion!

“**Now go forth, plan those epic activities, and unleash your workshop on the world! Get ready to inspire, engage, and leave a lasting impact.**”



5. GATHER YOUR TOOLS

Alright, gear up, my friends! Choose your communication tools wisely, whether it's good old email, group chats, or virtual hangouts like Zoom and Skype. Don't forget the essentials—gather up all the paper materials your participants might need throughout the project. And hey, if you need some electronic equipment like projectors or speakers, make sure you're prepared well in advance. Let's get our arsenal of tools ready to rock this workshop like true comic legends! Oh, and how about designing the workshop program in comic book form? Talk about epic!

6. DEFINE YOUR TARGETING AUDIENCE

We're on a mission to reach the hearts and minds of our audience, people! Dive deep and figure out what type of content really floats their boat—videos, audio, memes, you name it! Consider their goals and aspirations for the workshop, and start brainstorming ideas for mind-blowing activities. And hey, if you've got direct communication with your audience, why not toss out a poll or survey to get their suggestions? It's time to deliver a workshop that'll leave them begging for more!

7. PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES

Brace yourselves, folks, because we're about to unleash a whirlwind of epic activities! Start things off with an icebreaker that's straight out of the workshop's theme. Get everyone engaged, laughing, and ready for action! Then, it's time for the main event—bring on the mind-blowing sessions that'll leave jaws on the floor. But hey, we're not done yet! After all that brainpower, we need a decompression period. Give people a chance to kick back, relax, and soak in all the awesomeness they just experienced. And remember, my friends, the more interactive and engaging, the better! Let's make this workshop an unforgettable adventure!

8. SPREAD YOUR WORKSHOP ON MEDIA

Alright, it's time to shout it from the rooftops, people! We want the world to know about this mind-blowing workshop we're putting together. Take to the digital streets and spread the word on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn—heck, wherever the cool kids are hanging out these days. But here's the kicker: let's do it in true comic book style! Create a killer comic post that spills the beans on the topic, location, and all the juicy details. We're going for an alternative, contemporary means of communication that'll make heads turn and reach even more eager participants. Get ready to make some noise, my friends!



Concrete guideline of using comics in youth work

HOW TO ROCK COMICS IN YOUTH WORK AND USE THEM FOR KICK-ASS INCLUSIVE YOUTH WORK

Now that we've got the lowdown on comics and how to organize mind-blowing workshops with them, it's time to unleash our inner comic-making superheroes! But hey, it's not just about artistic talent or intuition—there's a whole bunch of comic theory that can level up your game and help you create comics that are out of this world. Buckle up, my friends, because we're diving into story structure, character arcs, genres, and all the secret sauce that'll make your comics meaningful and impactful.

In the following pages, we're gonna break down those comic-building fundamentals, hook you up with awesome extra material to expand your knowledge, and dish out some seriously actionable tips that'll have you creating comics like a boss!

But before we dive in, let's get some basic comic lingo down:

- **PANELS:** These babies are like still shots in a sequence, capturing the action and framing it in style. Panels can come in all shapes and sizes, but they're usually square or rectangular. And let me tell ya, panel layout is where the magic happens! It's all about creating rhythm, conveying action, and making the story flow like a wild rollercoaster ride. Get ready to master this comic Jedi skill!





When you think of panels, imagine how your comic page is gonna be sliced and diced for the reader's enjoyment:

- If you rock a whole page as one massive panel, that's like the grand entrance, baby! It's perfect for setting the stage or giving a mind-blowing moment the spotlight. We call this a splash or a full-page splash, and trust me, it's gonna make jaws drop!

- Now, if you wanna play with time, large panels make it feel like the clock is ticking slower, creating suspense and building tension. On the flip side, smaller panels, packed close together, signal lightning-fast action and a race against time. It's all about that speed and pace, my friends!

- But hey, let's not stop there. You can crank up the creativity dial by stacking panels (a small panel within a larger one) to show off extra detail or deliver juicy information—it's like an insider's secret. Or how about slanting panels to one side for a wicked sense of unease or explosive dynamics? And don't forget about those border-breaking tricks! Removing panel borders selectively adds extra oomph to different points of view, hones in on key moments, and takes your comic game to a whole new level. It's like a superpower known as the bleed panel!

Alright, my fellow comic enthusiasts, armed with these unofficial guidelines, you're ready to conquer the comic world! Get those panels poppin' and let your creativity soar as you create comics that'll blow minds, ignite imaginations, and make a lasting impact. It's time to unleash your inner comic-making rockstar and take youth work to the next level! Ka-pow!

Oh, we're about to get down and dirty with some comic secrets! Let's talk about those sneaky little spaces between the panels, known as **GUTTERS**. They're like the gaps in your favorite playlist, where the magic happens. Now, gutters can be left plain ol' white or jazzed up with some color to spice things up—although that's a rare treat. But here's the kicker: readers see gutters as the passage of time! Yeah, you heard me right. Time flies when you're reading comics. And guess what? Gutters are also a breeding ground for imagination. It's where readers fill in the blanks and create their own magic. We call this closure, and it's like a secret handshake between you and your readers. So, while some actions are easy peasy for readers to imagine transitioning from one panel to another (like a walk leading to a new location), be careful not to hide too much in those gutters. Smooth transitions, my friend, that's the name of the game!

Now, let's dive into **LETTERING**, the rockstar of text in comics. It's like the voice of the scene or the characters, setting the mood and making emotions pop. Bigger, bolder letters scream (literally!) for attention—they're like the life of the party. They convey urgency, crucial moments, or someone losing their cool. On the flip side, we've got italicized, smaller letters. They're like a soft whisper, delicate background dialogue, or the thoughts of a character on the down-low. So many ways to rock the lettering!

But how do we actually insert lettering into our comics? Here's the lowdown:

- **WORD BALLOONS:** Those bad boys contain the dialogue and usually have a round, balloon shape (duh!). But guess what? You can mix it up! Let your creative juices flow and match the shape to the character or the vibe of the moment. And oh, don't forget the tail! It's like an arrow pointing at the speaker. No tail? Well, that's usually a sign of internal monologue. But hey, don't be afraid to break the rules and make it your own. Consistency is key, my friend!

- **THOUGHT BALLOONS:** They're like word balloons without the tail, but with a cloud-like form. They're all about revealing those juicy internal thoughts and monologues. Let the mind games begin!

- **CAPTIONS:** Picture this—narration presented in square or rectangular balloons, usually chilling at the top or tucked away in a cozy corner of a panel. They're like the wise old sage, guiding us through the story. Respect!

- **ONOMATOPOEIA OR SOUND EFFECTS (SFX):** Pow! Bang! Boom! You know what I'm talking about—the flashy, attention-grabbing words that imitate sounds. They're not just for action heroes, my friend. They're like seasoning for your comic soup. Falling objects, clumsy trips—SFX has your back! Embrace the power of sound.

Armed with this secret comic knowledge, you're ready to dive headfirst into the art of creating mind-blowing comics. So buckle up, unleash your imagination, and let those panels come to life! It's time to rock the comic world and blow readers' minds with your epic storytelling skills. Ka-boom!

Alright, let's dive into the nitty-gritty of storyboarding! Now, storyboarding is usually associated with fancy-pants moviemaking, but guess what? It's a killer tool for making your comic too! It's like sketching out the important scenes from your story, giving you a roadmap to follow and ensuring you don't miss any epic moments. It's all about planning, my friend, and you don't want to skip that stage.

So, how do you make a storyboard? Well, you've got options! You can go high-tech with some storyboarding software like MakeStoryboard or Storyboarder. Fancy, huh? But if you're feeling nostalgic (or just love the feel of paper beneath your fingertips), grab a few good ol' sheets and let your imagination run wild. Picture a scene that's like the heart and soul of your story—the game-changer, the jaw-dropper, the emotional rollercoaster. Got it? Now, sketch it out, my friend! See if it fits in a single panel, a few panels, or a whole page. But don't go overboard and plan out a whole novel in one go. Keep it as a highlight, a key moment that moves the plot forward. Add in some dialogue, narration, or even background characters—think about their positions, expressions, and feelings. Now, here's the secret sauce: don't worry about perfecting those drawings. This is just the planning phase, remember? Include all the essential details, so you don't forget them when it's time to bring your vision to life.

Picture yourself creating several of these storyboarding gems, depending on how long your story is and how many key scenes you can conjure up at the beginning. It's like building the backbone of your comic, setting the stage for greatness. So grab those papers or fire up that software and let the storyboard magic begin!

Alright, buckle up and get ready to shape your story like a pro! Now that you've got your storyboard panels ready, it's time to figure out how they all fit together. Think about the sequence in which these scenes occur within the story, but also consider how you want to tell them. Will it be a straightforward linear narrative, or will you spice things up with flashbacks, dialogue, or other storytelling techniques? The choice is yours, my creative friend.

Grab a physical timeline or use your trusty software to map out the events as you want to present them in your story. Label each scene, and if you feel like it, add some extra boards in-between to explain what happens before and after those pivotal moments. This will give you a solid structure to work with and ensure a smooth flow for your readers.

Oh, and here's a sneaky trick for ya: create short profiles for each character. Jot down their names, do a quick rough sketch (no need to be Picasso, just get the basics), note their age, motivations, and anything else that's important to their development. This will help you maintain continuity and craft meaningful character arcs, which we'll dive into soon.

So, grab that timeline, label those scenes, and let your imagination run wild. We're building a captivating story here, my friend, and you're the mastermind behind it all!

STORY STRUCTURE

Alright, let's dive into the thrilling world of story structure! Picture this: your comic is like a rollercoaster ride, with twists and turns that keep readers on the edge of their seats. Just like in novels, books, TV shows, or movies, comics follow a story structure that gives them their captivating flow. And here's the best part: you have the power to create unique and thought-provoking stories that stand out from the crowd!

Now that you've got your storyboard sketches ready, it's time to imagine the flow of your story. Let me give you a sneak peek at some basic story elements that you can play around with:

First up, we have the "status quo." This is where we introduce our main character, showcasing their everyday life and their yearning for something more. Then, we unleash the "inciting incident," a catalyst that sets events into motion and pushes our character into action.

As the story unfolds, we enter the "rising action" phase. Our character embarks on a journey, chasing their aspirations, but not without facing challenges along the way. And just when things seem bleak, we reach the "all-is-lost" moment. Our character realizes that their efforts have fallen short, and it's a tough pill to swallow.

But fear not, my friend! Every story needs a resolution. It's here where we witness either a triumphant "success" (our character achieving their goal), a heart-wrenching "failure" (our character unable to reach their goal), or a surprising twist where they discover that their initial goal was misguided. Sometimes, they find something even more valuable or profound along the way.

So, as you craft your comic, keep these story beats in mind. Experiment with them, twist them, and make them your own. Your readers will be hooked as they experience the ups and downs of your captivating narrative. It's time to unleash your storytelling prowess and create a comic that'll leave a lasting impression!



Picture this, my friend: your story can fit into any comic book genre your heart desires! Whether it's an exciting action-packed adventure, a heartwarming romance, a captivating mystery, a thrilling page-turner, a fantastical journey into the unknown, a mind-bending science fiction tale, a spine-tingling horror story, a hilarious comedy, a relatable slice of life, or even a poetic masterpiece that tugs at the heartstrings.

The beauty of comics is that they embrace diversity and allow you to explore endless possibilities. So, go ahead and let your imagination run wild! Mix genres, create unique blends, and surprise your readers with something extraordinary.

Remember, storytelling is all about crafting an experience that resonates with your audience. So, whether you want to ignite their adrenaline with epic battles, make them swoon with heartfelt connections, keep them on the edge of their seats with suspenseful plot twists, or tickle their funny bones with laughter, the choice is yours!

Let your creativity flow, my friend, and create a comic that will transport readers to magical worlds, make them ponder life's mysteries, or simply bring a smile to their faces. The comic book realm is waiting for your unique voice and imaginative storytelling. So, gather your ideas, grab your pen, and embark on an unforgettable journey of comic creation!

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID

Alright, listen up! Here's a nifty storytelling structure called Freytag's Pyramid, straight from the 19th century. Gustav Freytag, the mastermind behind it, knew a thing or two about captivating readers. It's like an expanded version of the three-act structure we talked about earlier, jam-packed with all the good stuff.

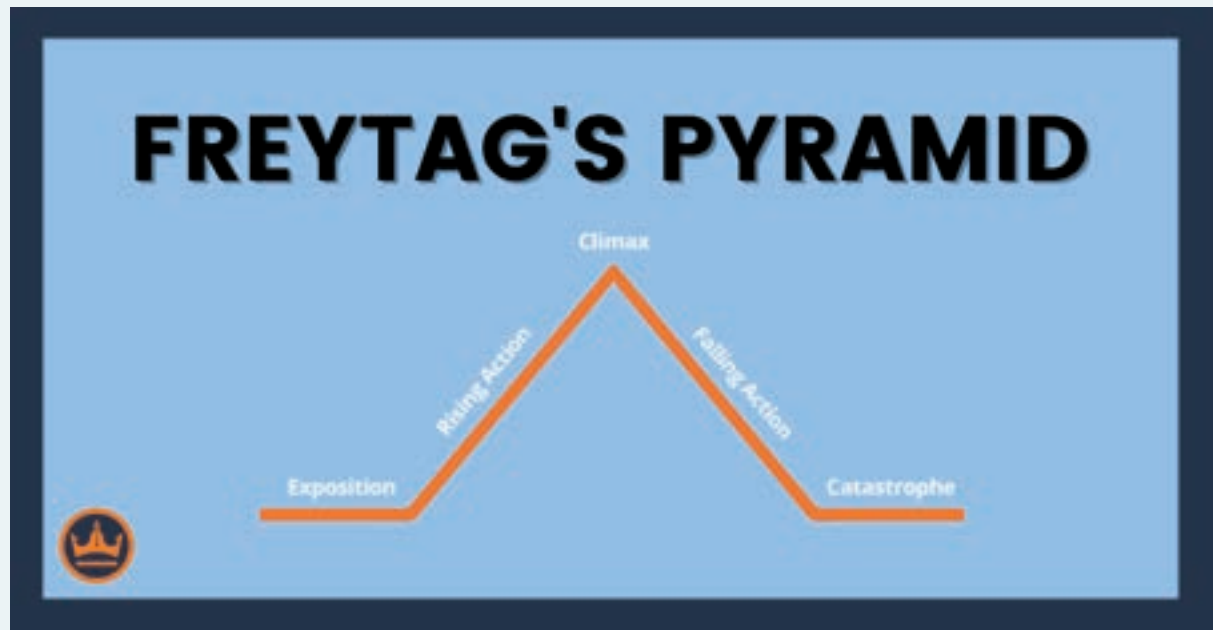
So, buckle up! You kick things off with the exposition, where you set the stage and immerse your readers in a world that feels as real as ours (or maybe even cooler). Then comes the inciting incident, like a lightning bolt that sparks the whole shebang. It's time to rev up the engines and dive headfirst into the rising action.

Now, pay attention 'cause this is where the magic happens. The rising action is the meaty part of your story, where twists, conflicts, and surprises keep readers on their toes. It's a rollercoaster ride filled with plot twists, character development, motives, and all those juicy themes you cooked up.

But hold on tight 'cause we're not done yet. We're building up to something epic, my friend. It's the climax, the grand finale, where everything reaches a boiling point. It's like the fireworks finale on New Year's Eve, leaving readers gasping for more.

And there you have it, the exhilarating Freytag's Pyramid. Use it as your trusty guide, or let it inspire your own unique storytelling style. So, go forth and weave tales that'll leave your readers begging for the next chapter!

Now we're getting to the juicy parts! Brace yourself for the climax, my friend. It's the moment of truth when everything hits a boiling point, and there's no turning back. Whether it's a single page or a whole bunch, you gotta make it count. This is your chance to deliver an emotional punch, dive deep into those themes and concepts you've been brewing.



But hey, the fun ain't over yet! After the climax, we enter the aftermath, also known as the fall. It's like a breather where the story elements start finding their connections and seeking a new normal. And guess what? You can still sprinkle in some surprises, twists, and mind-bending reveals to keep things interesting. It's like adding extra spice to your storytelling recipe.

Now, listen up 'cause we're approaching the grand finale. Every story needs an ending, my friend. It's like the cherry on top, the last piece of the puzzle. It can be happy, sad, thought-provoking, open-ended, or downright mind-blowing. The choice is yours! This is where you tie up loose ends, give answers to those burning questions, and leave your readers with a sense of satisfaction or maybe a tinge of bittersweetness. You've got options, my friend!

So, gear up for the climax, embrace the aftermath, and nail that resolution. Remember, every story is a journey, and it's up to you to make it a ride worth remembering. Now, go forth and weave tales that'll have readers begging for more!

THE HERO'S JOURNEY

Hold on to your hats, folks! Get ready to embark on a journey with our hero in this exciting structure, inspired by the likes of Star Wars and The Matrix. It's a mix of Freytag's pyramid and the wisdom of Disney executive Christopher Vogler. Brace yourselves for Departure, Initiation, and Return—three epic steps filled with twists and turns!

First up, we have Departure:

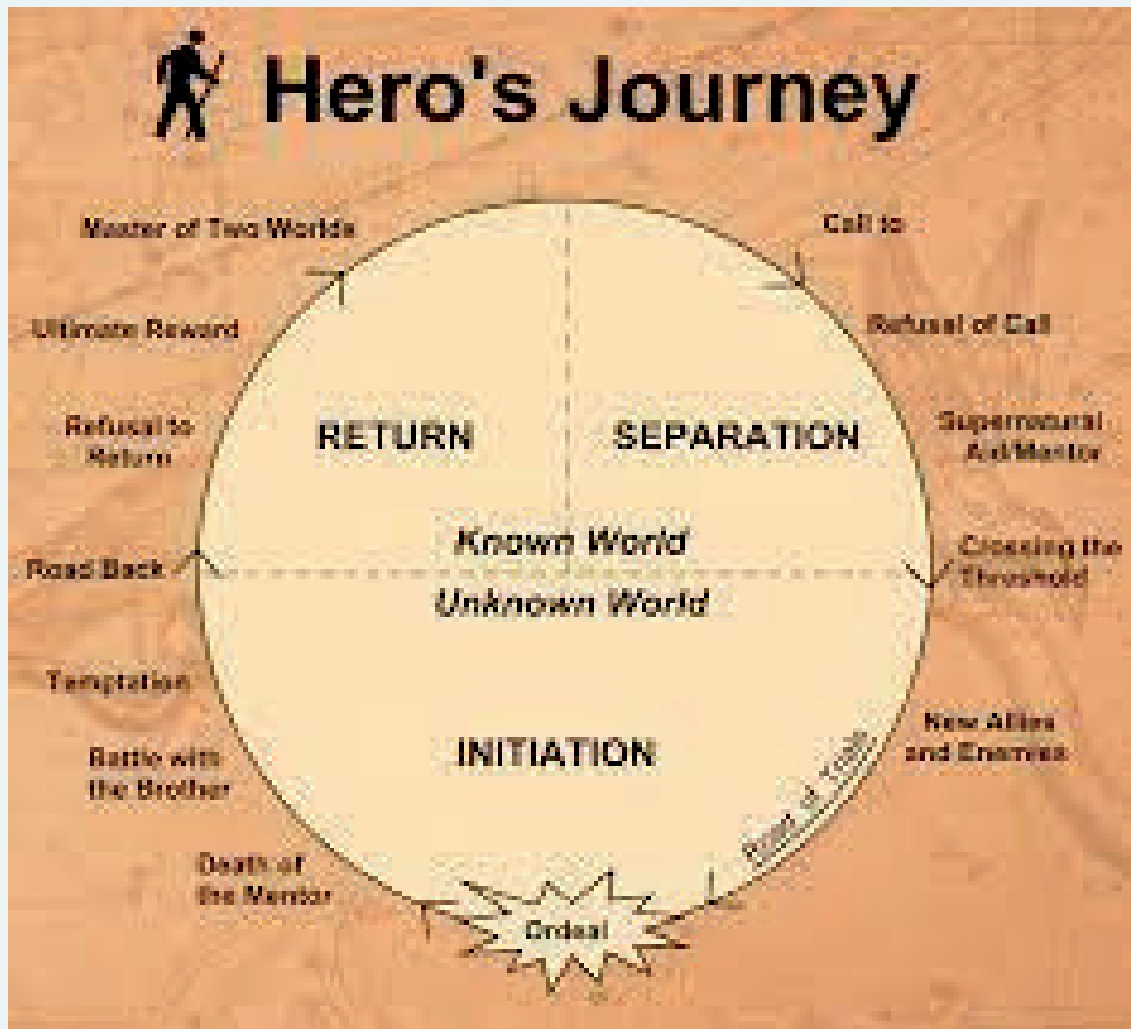
- **The Ordinary World:** Meet our hero in their regular ol' life, the status quo.
- **The Call to Adventure:** Something disrupts their peaceful existence and presents a challenge they can't ignore. Talk about high stakes!
- **Refusing the Call to Adventure:** Our hero gets cold feet and initially says, "Nope, not for me!" Maybe it's fear, obligations, or feeling inadequate.
- **Meeting the Mentor:** Enter the wise mentor figure who guides and prepares our hero for the upcoming adventure. They're like the ultimate cheerleader!
- **Crossing the Threshold:** After some mentorship sessions, our hero musters the courage to take the leap into the unknown. Adventure awaits!

Next comes Initiation:

- **Test, Allies, and Enemies:** Our hero dives headfirst into this new world, learning the ropes, making friends, and facing enemies. It's a growth spurt!
- **Approach to the Inmost Cave:** The tension rises as our hero inches closer to the most dangerous place on their journey. Gulp!
- **The Ordeal:** This is the moment of truth—the hero's ultimate test. They confront their deepest fears and truly become the hero they were meant to be.
- **The Reward:** Ta-da! Our hero receives a well-deserved reward, be it a physical object, knowledge, or a new skill. This changes them forever, setting the stage for the final showdown.

Finally, it's time for Return:

- **The Road Back:** Hold your horses! The story ain't over yet. Our hero faces the consequences of their previous success. Enemies seeking revenge or new obstacles—it's one last hurdle to clear.
- **Resurrection:** Get ready for the grand finale! Our hero faces their ultimate challenge, the climactic battle. The stakes couldn't be higher, but victory is within reach.



- **Return With the Elixir:** Our hero emerges triumphant, transformed by their journey. The enemy is defeated, and they bring back the elixir—a symbol of their victory—to share with the ordinary world.

Of course, there are even more story structures out there to explore if you're feeling adventurous. You can delve into The Seven-Point Story Structure, The Three-Act Structure, or the Save the Cat model with its 15 "beats," created by the talented screenwriter Blake Snyder.

Remember, these structures are just tools to help you shape your story and captivate your readers. You're the master of your own storytelling destiny, so feel free to mix and match or create your own path. Let the story unfold in ways that truly connect and impact your audience. Happy storytelling!

COMIC CHARACTERS

- **The Hero/Heroine:** Ah, the main character, the shining star of the show. You can go the traditional route and make them virtuous, embodying bravery and selflessness. Or, for a twist, make them an antihero with flaws and complexities that challenge the status quo. It's all about the kind of story you want to tell!
- **Comic Relief:** Who doesn't love a good laugh? Introduce a humorous character to your comic to bring levity and depth. They'll sprinkle witty and poignant jokes, making your readers chuckle and ponder at the same time.
- **The Logician:** Picture a character driven solely by reason and logic. They struggle with emotions and self-expression, offering a unique perspective to the story. Who needs heart when you've got brains, right?
- **The Outcast:** Meet the oddballs and misfits of your comic world. They don't quite fit in with the rest, showcasing an opposition to the hero without being outright evil. Embrace their differences and let them challenge the norms.
- **The Villain:** The quintessential adversary to the hero. They might be an outcast, but they're pure evil in every sense. However, consider giving them depth and complexity. Their motivations could be surprisingly relatable, posing a compelling challenge for the hero.
- **Love Interest:** Ah, romance is in the air! Whether it's an unrequited love slowly blossoming or a close friend unaware of the hero's passions, the love interest adds a layer of emotion and complexity.

Will they end up together or remain forever yearning?



- **Sibling:** Sometimes, family ties can't be ignored. Even if your story isn't directly focused on family dynamics, the main character might have a younger or older sibling or a parental figure. These connections humanize the character and add depth to their backstory.

- **Sidekick:** Every hero needs a trusty sidekick! They're the best friend, the loyal companion who not only reveals the main character's true self but actively participates in the plot. Think Batman and Robin, partners in crime-fighting!

Remember, you don't need to incorporate all of these archetypes into your story. Mix and match, think outside the box, and create characters with multiple layers and fascinating complexities. Let your imagination soar as you breathe life into your comic book universe!



Philosophy of Comic Creation

Alright, time for some unofficial wisdom from the realms of comic creation! Here's some overall guidance from the masters of the craft and a few extra nuggets of advice to fuel your creative journey:

1. **Embrace the Joy:** Comic creation is a labor of love, so make sure to enjoy the process. Let your passion shine through in every panel and storyline. Have fun with it!
2. **Visual Storytelling:** Comics are a unique medium that combines both words and images. Embrace the power of visual storytelling to convey emotions, actions, and atmosphere. Let the artwork and dialogue work together harmoniously.
3. **Pacing is Key:** Find the right balance between action-packed sequences and quiet, contemplative moments. Master the art of pacing to keep your readers engaged and eager to turn the pages.
4. **Character Development:** Create characters that your readers can connect with and invest in emotionally. Give them depth, flaws, and growth throughout the story. Make them relatable and memorable.
5. **Panel Composition:** Experiment with different panel layouts and compositions to add dynamism and visual interest. Use panel transitions to guide the reader's eye and control the flow of the story.



6. **Dialogue that Shines:** Craft dialogue that is authentic, engaging, and true to each character's voice. Every word counts, so make sure it adds value and drives the story forward.

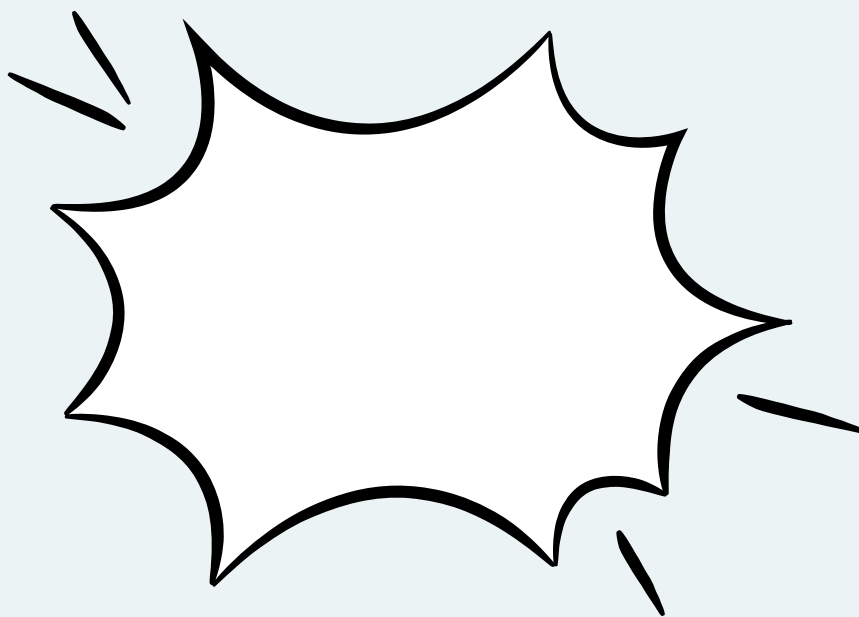
7. **Collaboration and Feedback:** Don't be afraid to collaborate with other artists, writers, or editors. Their perspectives can bring fresh ideas and improvements to your work. Seek feedback from trusted sources to refine and polish your comic.

8. **Continuity and Consistency:** Maintain continuity within your story and ensure consistency in character appearances, settings, and plot details. Create a cohesive world that readers can immerse themselves in.

9. **Evolve and Experiment:** Don't be afraid to take risks and push the boundaries of traditional storytelling. Experiment with different styles, genres, and techniques. Keep evolving and challenging yourself creatively.

10. **Perseverance:** Comic creation takes time, effort, and dedication. Embrace the challenges and setbacks along the way. Stay committed to your vision and keep honing your craft. Remember, great things come to those who persist.

Now go forth, armed with this comic creation wisdom, and let your imagination soar as you craft captivating stories and bring your unique comic universe to life!





What about the comic book page



1. **Visual Storytelling:** Remember that comics are a visual medium, so prioritize visual storytelling. Use the panels, artwork, and sequential layout to convey the story and engage the reader. Show, don't tell!
2. **Consistent Mood:** Each page should maintain a consistent mood and atmosphere, contributing to the overall tone of the story. This helps immerse the reader and creates a cohesive reading experience.
3. **Cohesive Visuals:** Aim for visual continuity within the page. Consider using consistent colors, art style, and design elements to maintain a sense of unity. However, don't be afraid to introduce contrasts strategically for emphasis and visual impact.
4. **Strategic Contrasts:** While maintaining consistency, judiciously introduce contrasts to highlight specific elements, such as characters, situations, emotions, or behaviors. Use contrasts sparingly to make them more impactful and avoid disrupting the flow of the story.

5. **Thoughtful Text Usage:** Comics rely on a combination of visuals and text, but be mindful not to overload the page with excessive text. Limit the use of thought balloons, lengthy dialogues, and heavy exposition. Let the art speak for itself and allow the reader to interpret and engage with the visuals.

6. **Panel Layout:** Experiment with panel layouts to create visual interest and dynamic storytelling. Vary the size, shape, and arrangement of panels to control the pacing, emphasize key moments, and guide the reader's eye smoothly across the page.

7. **Sequential Flow:** Ensure a clear and logical flow of panels, guiding the reader naturally from one panel to the next. Use effective panel transitions, such as action-to-action, subject-to-subject, or moment-to-moment, to maintain a seamless narrative progression.

8. **Balancing Act:** Find the right balance between action, dialogue, and silent moments. Alternate between panels that depict movement, intense action, or emotional interactions and panels that allow for breathing space and contemplation.

9. **Visual Hierarchy:** Establish a visual hierarchy within the page to guide the reader's attention. Highlight important elements, characters, or key story beats through size, position, or visual emphasis. Make sure the reader knows where to focus their gaze.

10. **Leaving Room for Imagination:** Leave space for the reader's imagination to fill in the gaps. Allow for subtle visual cues, nuanced expressions, and ambiguous moments that invite interpretation and engagement.

Remember, these are unofficial tips to unleash your creativity and create captivating comic book pages. Use them as a guide, but also trust your instincts and experiment with your unique storytelling style. Happy comic creating!

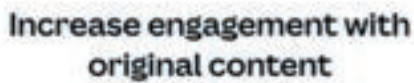
FOCUS ON THE PROCESS of CREATION of the COMICS

Absolutely! When it comes to creating comics, there's room for innovation, collaboration, and personal exploration. Neil Gaiman, a master storyteller himself, emphasizes the importance of these aspects.

While it's possible to tackle multiple roles in the comic-making process, it's also valuable to recognize the different positions involved. Consider them as opportunities for teamwork, group work, understanding, and connection:

- **Teamwork:** Pair up with someone where one becomes the writer and the other the artist. Collaborate closely to bring your combined vision to life.
- **Group Work:** Assign different roles to each member of a group. Let them explore and contribute their unique skills to create a well-rounded comic.
- **Understanding:** As a youth worker, you can take on the role of an editor. Provide constructive criticism and guidance, helping young people refine their storytelling skills.
- **Connection:** Join a pair or a team in the creation process alongside the young people. By actively participating, you foster a sense of connection and shared creativity.

Remember, these unofficial suggestions are meant to spark your imagination and adapt the comic-making process to your specific needs and goals. Embrace the freedom and opportunities that comics offer, using the provided theory as a starting point to craft your own unique comic-making journey. Enjoy the creative exploration!



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AS YOU MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR COMIC, BE SURE TO CLICK ON THE "UPDATE" BUTTON TO SAVE YOUR EDITS.

NAME YOUR COMIC: AUTHOR'S NAME:

(MAX 18 PANELS)

NEED HELP? **VIEW YOUR PROGRESS**

COMIC STRIP EXAMPLES

PANEL #1 **PANEL #2**

► DIALOGUE PROMPTS **PANEL #2**

A Hug From You



A Hug From You



HOME SWEET HOME



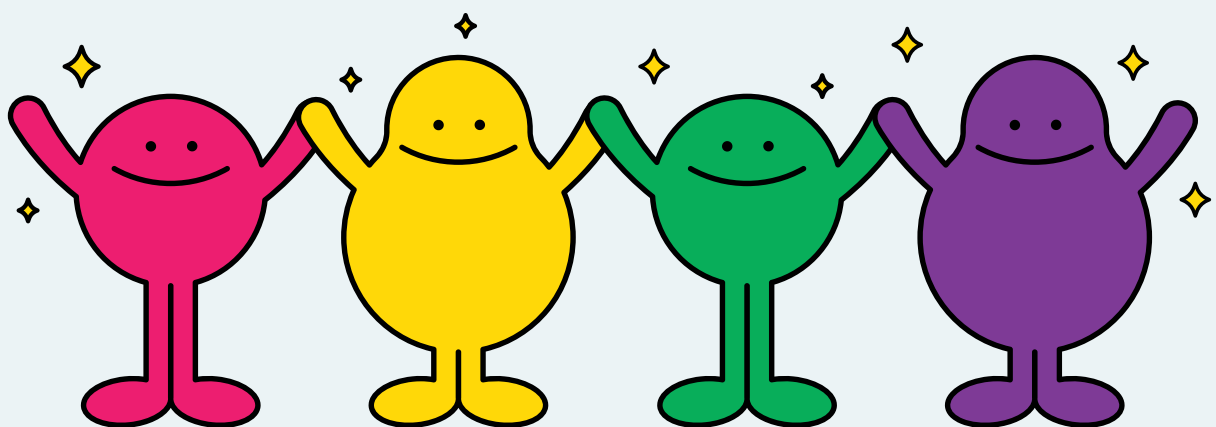
FOCUS ON THE CHARACTER

Here's some unofficial advice for considering your characters in comic creation:

Every character is special. Each one can be a hero, a lover, a fool, or even a villain. Remember that everybody has their own story to tell. When developing your characters, ask yourself meaningful questions. Explore their backgrounds, childhoods, and the reasons behind their behavior. How would they react in different situations?

Creating realistic characters goes beyond storytelling mastery. It's about engaging the audience on a deep level. People connect with characters who are flawed, diverse, and interesting, just like real humans. By crafting authentic characters, you can establish a strong relationship between the readers and the story. Build that connection and awareness so that readers feel like they truly know your characters.

Remember, this unofficial advice is intended to help you create compelling and relatable characters in your comics. Let your imagination soar and delve into the depths of your characters' lives. Through their stories, you can captivate your readers and leave a lasting impact.



Visual Design of the COMICS

In the realm of comics, the visual aspect and design play a crucial role. Unlike films, comics rely solely on visuals to convey the narrative, requiring careful planning and consideration from the artists. Elements such as color, character design, art style, and world-building must align with the story being told (Mercury XY, 2019). According to McCloud's insights on graphic design, the more cartoonish an icon appears, the more universally relatable it becomes. Simplistic drawings in comics allow readers to easily place themselves within the story (Understanding Comics Summary and Study Guide, n.d.). Realism is not a prerequisite for readers to identify with a comic.

To understand a particular comic, it's important to consider its intended target audience. The comic's style and content should align with the audience's preferences and interests. Each comic may employ different elements or techniques to represent specific aspects. For instance, "motion lines" are often used to suggest movement. This artistic method is widely understood within the comic community, representing the dynamic action or motion occurring in the story (McCloud, 1994).

By appreciating the visual elements and understanding the artistic techniques employed in comics, one can delve deeper into the storytelling and better grasp the intentions and messages conveyed by the creators. Embracing the uniqueness of each comic and its visual representation allows for a more immersive and engaging reading experience.

Better ask questions to understand



colour

font

expressions



emotions

illustrations

objects



Explaining and Understanding COMICS

Let's dive into the unofficial explanation and understanding of created comics:

When interpreting comics created by young people, youth workers can follow some concrete guidelines to understand their message. It's important to analyze various elements of comics and pay attention to key aspects. This chapter focuses on these elements and provides questions for analysis and understanding. It also offers guidelines for youth workers to comprehend comics and utilize them as a tool in their work.

Comics are a unique form of sequential art, where a story is told through a series of images. To explain and understand comics, it's essential to grasp the general rules of the comic universe. This includes understanding the basic structure, elements, and principles that comic creators follow when crafting their work. Key elements found in comics include design, characters, narrative, setting (time and space), sequencing, plot structure, dialogue, action, and the use of emotions.

By familiarizing themselves with these elements and principles, youth workers can better interpret and engage with the comics created by young people. They can gain insights into the stories being told, the messages being conveyed, and the unique perspectives of the creators. Understanding comics not only allows for meaningful interactions but also empowers youth workers to effectively use comics as a powerful tool in their youth work endeavors.

Remember, this unofficial explanation provides a starting point for understanding and analyzing comics. Each comic is a creative and expressive endeavor, so it's important to approach them with an open mind and a willingness to explore the stories within.



Here are some key questions for analyzing and understanding comics;

- **Who do you think the author had in mind when creating the comic? What aspects of the comic suggest its intended audience?**
- **Do the characters have a more cartoonish and simplistic design, or are they portrayed in a more intricate and realistic manner?**
- **Can you infer anything about the target audience based on the character designs? Does it seem like the comic is intended for a broad readership or a more specific group?**
- **Can you identify any visual elements or techniques used to represent specific things in the comic? How do these elements contribute to the overall storytelling?**
- **How are emotions visually depicted in the comic? Are there specific artistic choices or styles that convey different emotional states?**

By considering these questions, you can gain a deeper understanding of the comic's intended audience, visual representation, and the ways in which emotions and narrative elements are conveyed. Remember, these are just starting points for analysis, and you can explore your own interpretations and insights while engaging with the comic.



Importance of the closure of comics

- What information is intentionally left out and expected to be understood by the reader? How does this omission contribute to the storytelling experience?
- What do you think is the purpose of leaving out certain information? Does it enhance the overall story structure, create suspense, or imply something deeper?
- Is the missing information crucial for understanding the story, or is it used as a narrative tool to propel the story forward?
- How does the reader's active participation in filling in the gaps through closure impact their engagement with the comic?
- Can you identify any instances where the off-panel action or closure is used to provide social commentary or convey a specific message?

By exploring these questions, you can gain a better understanding of how off-panel action and closure are employed in comics to engage readers' imagination, create suspense, and facilitate their active involvement in the story.

Time and Space is also very important

- How does the rhythm, pacing, and flow of the story impact the reader's engagement? Does it create a sense of urgency, suspense, or reflection?
- How does the setting, both in terms of time and space, contribute to the overall narrative? Does it establish a specific atmosphere, provide context, or serve as a backdrop for the events?
- In what ways does the sequencing of panels enhance the storytelling experience? Is it utilized to advance the plot, add excitement or unpredictability, or convey a specific message?
- Why do you think the author made certain choices regarding the use of time and space? What effect do these choices have on the reader's interpretation and understanding of the story?
- Can you identify any unconventional or deliberate use of time and space in the comics you're analyzing? How does this contribute to the overall narrative or artistic expression?

By considering these questions, you can delve deeper into the manipulation of time and space in comics and gain insights into how these elements shape the reader's experience and interpretation of the story.

Plot Structure

Let's delve into the plot structure of comics from an unofficial standpoint:

- **How does the story function as a cohesive unit? Is it intricately woven, potentially confusing, or smoothly executed? Consider the flow of events, the pacing, and how different plot elements interact.**
- **Identify the major themes that the narrative explores. What ideas, issues, or concepts is the story addressing? How do these themes resonate with the reader and society at large?**
- **Can the story be interpreted as a commentary on our society? In what ways does it reflect or critique aspects of the world we live in?**
- **Explore how the author utilizes emotions to support the storytelling. How are emotions portrayed through the characters, dialogue, and artwork? How do these emotional elements enhance the reader's connection to the story?**
- **Pay attention to the methods and tools employed by the author in their storytelling. This could include narrative techniques, visual storytelling techniques, symbolism, or other literary devices. Reflect on why the author chose to utilize these specific methods and how they contribute to the overall narrative.**
- **Consider what the story is trying to convey. What messages, lessons, or insights is the author attempting to communicate? How do these elements resonate with the reader and evoke a response?**

By asking these questions, you can gain a deeper understanding of the plot structure in comics and uncover the underlying themes, messages, and storytelling techniques used by the author. Remember that interpretation can vary, and it's important to consider multiple perspectives when analyzing and understanding a comic's plot.

Analyzing Characters

Let's explore the construction of characters in comics from an unofficial perspective:

- **Identify what it is about the characters in the comic that has the potential to resonate with the reader. Is it their relatability, their struggles, their unique qualities, or their depth of personality?**
- **Analyze the identity of the characters. Consider their appearance, their main traits, and the emotions they convey. How do these elements contribute to their overall characterization and the reader's connection to them?**
- **Examine how the story supports and highlights the characters and their identity. Does the narrative provide opportunities for character development and growth? How do the events and interactions within the story shape the characters' journey?**
- **Reflect on whether the characters are used to represent something larger. Do they symbolize certain beliefs, values, or themes? How does their representation contribute to the overall message or commentary of the comic?**
- **Consider the diversity of the characters. Do they represent different social groups, cultures, or identities? How does this diversity contribute to a more inclusive and representative narrative?**
- **Explore the problems and obstacles that the characters face. Are these problems relatable and tied to real-life issues, such as economic, social, or cultural obstacles? Or are they more abstract and specific to the superhero genre or the relationship with the antagonist?**

By asking these questions, you can gain a deeper understanding of the characters in the comic and their significance within the narrative. Characters serve as vessels for different perspectives, and their development and portrayal play a crucial role in engaging the reader and conveying the intended themes and messages of the story.

Analyzing Dialogue

Let's delve into the role of dialogue in comics from an unofficial perspective:

- **Examine how the comic employs various resources, such as irony, comedy, lies, call-backs, suspense, and more, to enrich the dialogue. Consider whether these elements serve solely to enhance the entertainment value or if they also provide insights into the characters, story, themes, or even the overarching message of the comic.**
- **Analyze the purpose of the dialogue. Does it primarily convey the core message of the comic, advance the plot, develop the characters, or offer social/critical commentary? How does the dialogue contribute to the overall narrative structure and character dynamics?**
- **Evaluate the conciseness of the dialogue. Is it concise enough to effectively convey the intended message without unnecessary exposition? Does it drive the point across succinctly while maintaining the reader's suspension of disbelief?**
- **Consider the realism of the dialogue. Does it feel authentic and natural within the context of the comic's world? Does it effectively engage the reader and draw them deeper into the story?**
- **Assess the dramatic power of the dialogue. Does it match the intensity and significance of the moments it accompanies? Does it evoke the necessary emotional response from the reader?**

By asking these questions, you can gain insights into the effectiveness of the dialogue in the comic. Dialogue serves as a powerful tool for conveying information, developing characters, and driving the narrative forward. It should be purposeful, realistic, and dramatically meaningful, ensuring that it enhances the reader's engagement with the story and contributes to the overall storytelling experience.

Analyze the Action

When analyzing the action in a comic from an unofficial perspective, consider the following key questions:

- **Identify the key action in the comic. What is the pivotal moment that drives the plot forward or holds significant narrative importance?**
- **Assess the weight of the key action. How relevant is it in the context of the story? Does it have emotional significance, reveal character development, or mark a turning point in the plot? Consider the character's behavior, relationships with others, and the impact of their actions.**
- **Examine the intensity of the action. How is the action portrayed visually and narratively? Is it depicted in great detail or glossed over? How does the author's choice of words and visual elements enhance the intensity of the action or create a specific impact on the reader?**
- **Reflect on the author's decision to include this particular action. What purpose does it serve within the story? Does it advance the plot, provide character growth, or contribute to the overall themes or messages of the comic?**
- **Consider what is conveyed through the action. Does it evoke specific emotions in the reader? Does it explore particular themes or offer social commentary? How does the action deepen the reader's engagement with the story?**

By exploring these questions, you can gain a deeper understanding of the role and significance of action in the comic. Action in comics extends beyond physical fights and chases and encompasses any dynamic movement, conflict, and resolution. It carries weight and intensity, contributing to character arcs, plot development, and the overall emotional and thematic impact of the story.

FOLLOW UP IS THE KEY After the creative session where participants have created their comics, it is important to provide a safe and supportive space for them to share their work. Here are some suggestions for initiating discussions based on David Jensen's article (2001):

- **Keep it concise:** Since time is limited, aim for brief discussions that serve as a starting point rather than replacing deeper conversations.
- **Offer an outside perspective:** Instead of summarizing participants' words and structures, provide an alternative viewpoint that encourages others to look at the comics in a different light and initiates discussion.
- **Compare and contrast:** Use other comics discussed during the session as a context for comparison. Explore similarities, differences, strengths, and weaknesses in relation to the current work and topic.
- **Take notes:** Make notes about important points and questions you want to address during the session. This ensures that you don't forget key aspects and facilitates focused discussions.

In the session, it's valuable to discuss various elements of the comics, such as structure, wording, panels, art, plot, characters, and the chosen topic. Consider the following examples of concrete questions, based on Mui S.'s research (2017), to prompt reflection and open up discussions with the participants/creators:

- **How did the visual elements (panels, art style) contribute to conveying the story or the chosen topic?**
- **What decisions did you make regarding the plot structure? How did those choices impact the flow and impact of the comic?**
- **How did you approach character development in your comic? Did the characters effectively convey their perspectives and emotions?**
- **In what ways did you use dialogue to enhance the story or communicate important information?**
- **How did you handle the chosen topic in your comic? Did the visual storytelling effectively raise awareness or convey a message related to that topic?**
- **What challenges did you face during the creation process, and how did you overcome them?**

By asking these questions and engaging in reflective discussions, participants can gain a deeper understanding of their own work and its effectiveness in conveying their intended message or story.



As a Facilitator;

YOUR ROLE is to create a safe and inclusive space for participants to share their comics and engage in discussions. Here are some key discussion points to consider:

1. *Art: Can art alone convey the story effectively without relying on dialogue?*
2. *Panel Transitions: Is it clear what happens between panels, ensuring a smooth flow of the narrative?*
3. *Negative Space: How is negative space used to focus attention or convey meaning in the story?*
4. *Captions and Speech Balloons: Do they complement the art or distract from it? Are they well-placed within the composition?*
5. *Panel Focal Points: Are scenes in the panels clear and easy to understand? Are confusing panels intentionally used to enhance the action and storytelling?*
6. *Colors: Do the colors effectively express the mood and emotions consistent with the context?*
7. *Emotions and Atmosphere: What emotions does the comic evoke? How does it contribute to the overall atmosphere of the story?*
8. *Panel Sizes: Are the panels evenly sized in a grid or do they vary in size?*
9. *Recurring Themes: Is there a recurring theme or motif throughout the comic?*
10. *Metaphors and Symbols: Are there recurring metaphors, ideas, or language? What symbols or images are emphasized?*
11. *Plot Movement and Engagement: Does the plot have a sense of movement and maintain the reader's interest? Are there any obvious plot holes?*
12. *Character Consistency: Are character actions consistent with their established personality? Any explanation of something seems out of character?*
13. *Protagonist and Antagonist: Can you identify the main protagonist(s) and antagonists?*
14. *Character Relationships: What kind of relationships do the characters have? How do their interactions impact the story?*
15. *Overcoming Challenges: What challenges does the protagonist face, and how are they overcome? Is the resolution plausible and character-consistent?*
16. *Abilities and Traits: Are characters' special abilities or traits connected to their individuality or randomly assigned?*
17. *Stereotypes: Does the comic reinforce or challenge stereotypes?*
18. *Inclusive Language: Is appropriate language and terminology used around inclusive topics?*
19. *Reflecting Today's Society: Does it reflect aspects of today's society?*

Conclusion

Comics have proven to be a valuable tool for youth workers, educators, and organizations working with young people. They offer a fresh approach to engage and connect with youth in a rapidly evolving world. By incorporating comics into their practices, youth workers can enhance creativity, storytelling skills, and provide a platform for expression. Using comics as a method allows for multiple positive benefits, from fostering creativity to promoting social interaction and emotional expression. Studies have shown that creating comics can be more effective than traditional methods, leading to improved knowledge, behavior, and decision-making among young people. Comics are not only a source of entertainment but also a powerful educational tool. They can raise awareness and disseminate information on various social issues that concern young people. By engaging in the creation of comics, youth can express themselves, boost self-esteem, and find a space where their individuality is celebrated. Comics offer a unique avenue to address important topics such as sex education, bullying, addiction, domestic violence, disability, and racism. The combination of concise texts and impactful visuals helps young people better understand and reflect on these issues. Moving beyond theory, the manual provides a practical comic creation tool through the CO-MIX platform. This tool aims to support youth workers and young people in creating inclusive and engaging stories. However, it's important to remember that the process doesn't end with the creation itself. Facilitating discussions and reflections on the comic's topics, visual elements, and storyline is crucial for evaluating its impact and achieving the intended goals. Creating a safe space for participants to share their work with others is essential. As youth work continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of young people, it's important for youth workers to continuously learn new methods, tools, and approaches. Incorporating diverse methods ensures quality youth work and supports young people in their personal development. Overall, comics provide a dynamic and effective means for youth workers to engage, connect, and guide young people in their journey of self-expression and growth.



The list of resources provided includes various guides, articles, videos, and websites related to using comics in education, promoting diversity, and understanding the art form. These resources cover topics such as teaching with graphic novels, the benefits of comics for mental health, cultural diversity in youth work, storytelling techniques, comic book history, and more.

Some specific resources worth exploring include:

- "A Guide to Using Graphic Novels With Children and Teens" by Scholastic, which offers insights into incorporating graphic novels into education.
- "Always Human" and "Concrete Carcass" in the Queer Comics Database, which feature queer comics for diverse representation.
- "Comic Books and the Addressing of Social Issues" by Jason Juniewicz, exploring the role of comics in raising awareness of social issues.
- "Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art" by Scott McCloud, a comprehensive exploration of the art form and its elements.
- "The Hero's Journey: Step-By-Step Guide with Examples" by David Schrieffer, which delves into the narrative structure of storytelling.

These resources can provide valuable information and inspiration for youth workers, educators, and anyone interested in using comics as a medium for expression, education, and promoting inclusivity.

YOU CAN FREELY USE OUR TOOLKIT AND MOREOVER THE PRESENTATION WHICH YOU FIND IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES THAT ATTACHED.

AIM OF PROJECT

to design, implement and test innovative and interactive educational tools for youth educators/trainers in order to support them in developing their daily activities and their channels of communication with their target groups towards their integration path by allowing them to understand and increase the knowledge of the hosting society's language, history, institutions is crucial for successful integration.

WHY COMICS

There are many different ways of storytelling, some of which are what we call multimodal - that is, they combine at least two different modes. Both comic books and graphic novels have become extremely popular in contemporary society. These texts use both text and images to tell a story.

Although we might read and enjoy these texts, we might not be familiar with the metalanguage needed to analyse them. Graphic novels and comics both use similar conventions, but before we delve into our study of graphic novels, it's important to discuss what makes them different from comics.

OBJECTIVES

Our project is designed together with partners from the Netherlands, France, Turkey and the UK.

We set up following objectives reach our main goal.

To build capacity of youth workers

To produce material to facilitate the process of social integration of refugees

To promote and enhance social integration of immigrants and refugees

To use art as a tool for daily work of youth workers



PANELS

A panel is an individual frame that consists of a single image depicting one moment that is sometimes accompanied by text.

Most pages of graphic novels will contain multiple panels and these panels can be in different shapes and sizes which can contribute to meaning.

When we read a page of a graphic novel, we read the panels in order from right to left and from top to bottom.



FRAMES

Frames are the borders that go around the panel. They are traditionally rectangular in shape. Some graphic novelists might use different lines, shapes and sizes for various effects.

This might be to convey mood (jagged or wavy lines), signify a dream (cloud shaped lines) or to signify a change in time or location (an abnormal shaped panel).



SHOT TYPES

When discussing framing we can use the same language as film to refer to an image as a close-up, mid shot or long shot depending on how the content is framed.



CLOSE-UP SHOT

A subject's head takes up most of the panel. It is used to reveal emotion through facial expression.



MID SHOT

A subject is seen from the waist up. It shows emotion through facial expression as well as body language.



LONG SHOT

A subject's entire body is seen as well as some of the setting. It shows their emotion through posture and gesture.



NARRATION BOX

A narration box is usually a rectangular box at the top or bottom of a panel. It includes the narrators dialogue so they can speak directly to the reader.



SPEECH BUBBLES

Speech bubbles are usually round frames that look like bubbles with a tail leading to the speaker. They contain direct speech from the characters.



SPEECH BUBBLES

Speech bubbles can appear in different styles to convey various moods or ideas.



These have jagged or sharp edges and show that a character is raising their voice. They can also be used for radio, TV or other electronic sounds.



These have cloud shaped edges and are used to show that a character is thinking or dreaming something.



These have icicles hanging from the bottom and can be used to depict an icy or hostile tone.



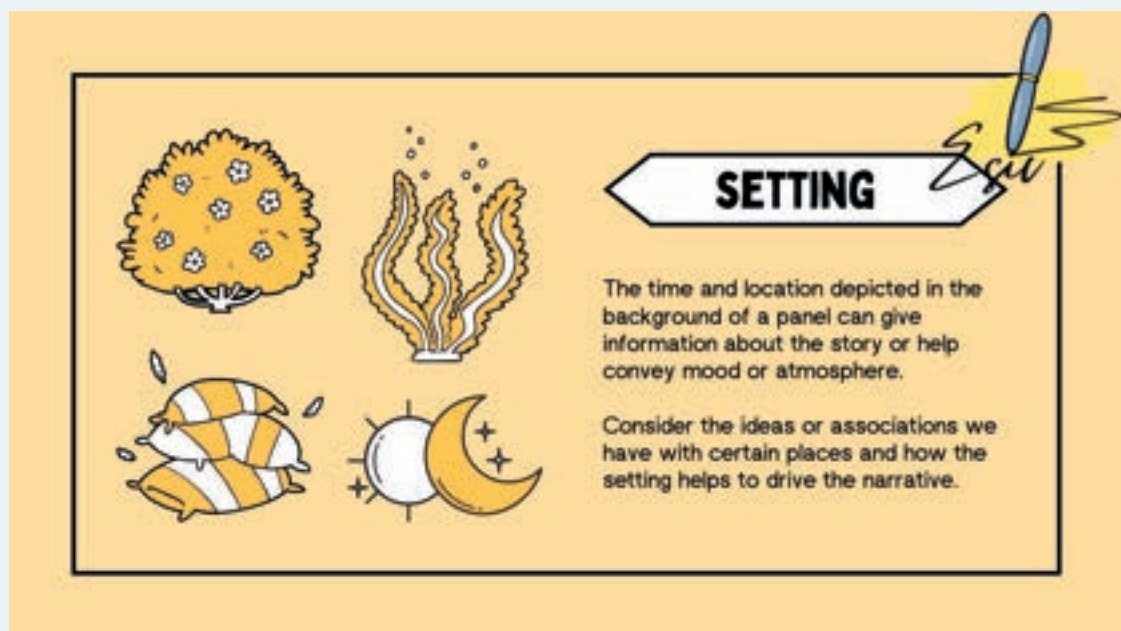
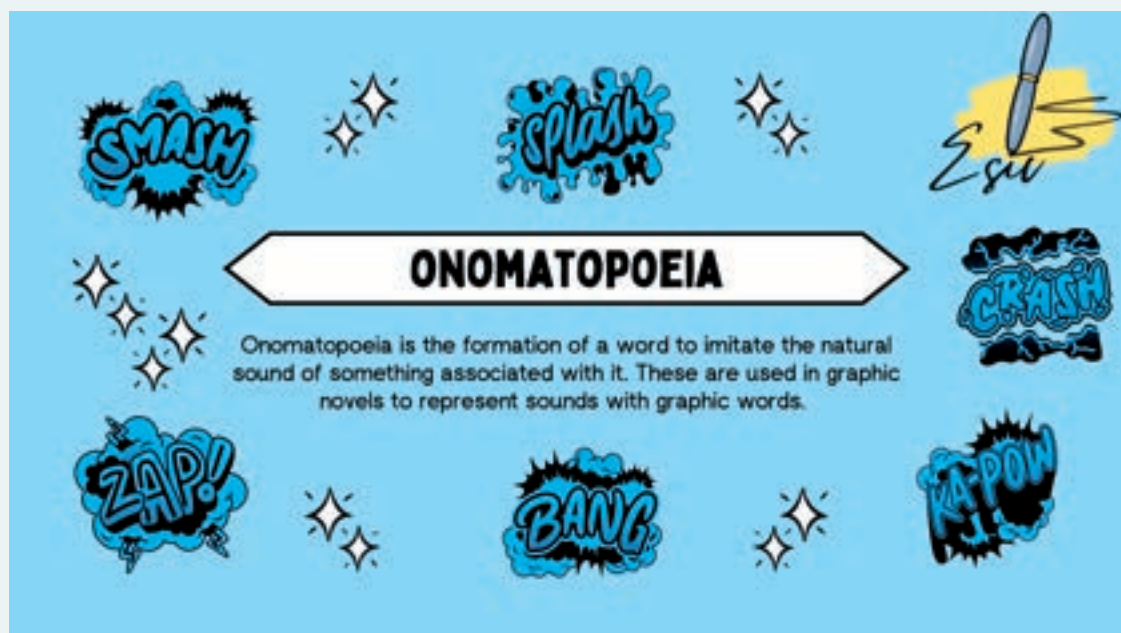
These can be used as a quick way to convey the mood or emotion of the characters.

LIGHTING & COLOUR

Lighting and colour may be used to show different moods. For example, bright colours and light are often used to show a sense of fun and happiness, while dull colours and dim lighting may be used to show gloom and sadness or to create tension or suspense.

Colours may also have specific associations. For example, red might communicate ideas of violence, danger or romance depending on how it's used.







OBJECTS

Objects can be important and meaningful. They can be used symbolically to reveal information about a character, setting or theme.

Think about the connotations of different objects. For example, a skull could represent death or a red rose could represent love or romance.

BODY LANGUAGE

FACIAL EXPRESSION

A form of non-verbal communication using the movement of facial features such as eyes, cheeks & mouth.



GESTURE

The movement and positioning of the hands and arms to communicate or undertake action.



POSTURE

The position in which someone holds their body. This nonverbal communication tells us about the person's mood.



GAZE

Where the person is looking and who or what the person is looking at. This can draw our focus towards something.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH



For More Details
www.esic.org.uk



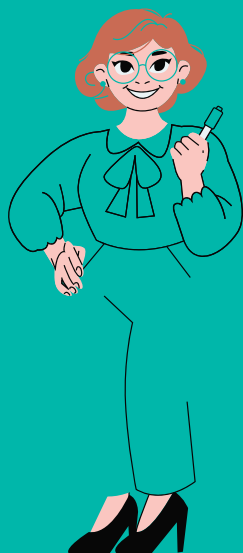
ENHANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION WITH COMICS



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KA227-YOU-094677**

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