

Name: _____

Period: _____

Understanding Comics: Interpreting Visual Story Telling

<p>PRE-WRITING ACTIVITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are your experiences with comic books or reading comics?• What are some of the prejudices/preconceptions of comic book readers?• Why do you think all these comic book heroes and heroines are being made into movies lately?
<p>WHY COMICS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do texts and comics have in common?• Do you agree? Why/Why not? (write 3 -4 sentences) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to be a "critical reader"?• In what way, according to the opinion of your teacher (and a lot of researchers) does reading comic books require additional literacy skills?
<p>HOW DO YOU READ A COMIC BOOK:</p> <p>STEP 1 – QUICK LOOK AT THE ART</p>	<p>Examine the _____ first on a _____ level. Most of the _____ will actually be told through _____.</p> <p>Notice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. _____2. _____3. _____4. _____

<p>HOW DO YOU READ A COMIC BOOK:</p> <p>STEP 2 – READ THE TEXT</p>	<p>Read it like anything else: _____ to _____,</p> <p>_____ to _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are words in comic books usually more specifically chosen? - As a result, words are usually more...?
<p>HOW DO YOU READ A COMIC BOOK:</p> <p>PATH OF THE TEXT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start _____ 2. Move _____ to _____ reading all _____ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should you read first? • What does it indicate if the word balloons are layered? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. When you hit the end of a row of panels, you...?
<p><i>NOW YOU PRACTICE</i></p>	<p>On the next page, I want you to number and trace the path of the text. For the Fables page, you should have 18 pieces of text, for the other (I don't know what comic it's from) you should have 19</p>



ONE SUMMER AFTERNOON

A FABLES one-page tale

BILL WILLINGHAM writer
MARK BUCKINGHAM artist
TODD KLEIN letters
SHELLY BOND editor

VERTIGO Suggested for mature readers
vertigo.comics.com



HEY, I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THAT YOUNG WITCH IN THE GROUP OF--

NOT SO YOUNG, BUT YES, AMBROSE, I'M ONE OF THOSE.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING SITTING ALL ALONE UP HERE IN WOLF VALLEY?

A VISION CAME TO ME ABOUT THE CHILDREN OF SNOW AND BIGBY. I WROTE IT DOWN. NOW I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER IT'S BEST TO DELIVER IT, OR FORGET IT.



THAT'S THE CONFOUNDING NATURE OF PROPHECY. IT SELDOM HELPS AND OFTEN HARMS.

REALLY? YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT US? ABOUT OUR FUTURE? OH, YOU MUST READ IT TO ME! YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO!



OKAY, BUT REMEMBER AFTERWARDS THAT YOU ASKED FOR THIS.

THE FIRST CHILD WILL BE A KING.

THE SECOND CHILD A PAUPER.



THE THIRD WILL DO AN EVIL THING.

THE FOURTH WILL DIE TO STOP HER.

THE FIFTH WILL BE A HERO BOLD.

THE SIXTH WILL JUDGE THE REST.

THE SEVENTH LIVES TO AGES OLD, AND IS BY HEAVEN BLESSED.



UH...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHICH ONE OF US IS WHICH NUMBER? IS IT THE ORDER IN WHICH WE WERE BORN, OR SOMETHING ELSE?



THAT'S NOT FOR ME TO KNOW, OR I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN IT DOWN DIFFERENTLY. TAKE CARE, WOLF CUB. NOW IT'S YOUR BURDEN TO SHARE WITH THE OTHERS.

OR DECIDE NOT TO.

YOUNG AMBROSE, CHILD OF SNOW AND BIGBY WOLF, SLEPT FITFULLY THAT NIGHT.

Fin



Dear Diary, so I was having my Saturday lunch with mom at the Wyneth Ridge cafe. Nothing special.

IT'S TOO BAD WE CAN'T HAVE MORE GIRL TIME TODAY, AML...

...BUT THERE'S SOME PAPERWORK ON THE ANTI SUPERS ORDINANCE I NEED TO PEAD OVER, AND I HAVE TO GET TO THE BANK BEFORE IT CLOSSES.

IT'S OK MOM, GO ON.



> SIGH < GARRETT. WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT JUST TAKING PICTURES OF ME?



UM... THAT YOU WOULD DO UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO ME WITH MY CAMERA IF I KEPT DOING IT?

RIGHT. SO WHAT ARE THESE PICTURES FOR?

I NEED TO BE READY FOR MY BIG BREAK...

OH MY LOODY!

WHAT?

Nothing special, that is, until my first Super Villain showed up! I didn't know what to do...



SHRRIPPP!



HE'S GOING INTO THE BANK!

MY MOM JUST WENT IN THERE!



"I needed to find somewhere to change and get out of sight... How do other heroes do it? Fly around all the time in their gear just waiting for trouble? Or do they have some weird gizmo to help them change clothes?"



"If I meet any other super types, I really need to ask if there's a more dignified way to do this than changing in a bathroom stall."

NO SUPERS ALLOWED IN WYNETH RIDGE, EH? HERE'S WHAT THE BIG O THINKS OF YOUR DUMB CITY AND YEP STUPID LAWS!

HOW TO READ A COMIC BOOK:

STEP THREE – ART ANALYSIS
NOTICE...COLOR & SHADING

- Color - Color Choice _____

Color "Family"	Emotional Connotation	
Cool Colors	<i>Examples</i>	
Warm Colors	<i>Examples</i>	
Earth Tones	<i>Examples</i>	
Black & White		
Grey Tones		

- Shading - How is _____ used to create feeling or mood?
 - More Shadow = _____
 - More Light = _____

HOW TO READ A COMIC BOOK:

STEP THREE – ART ANALYSIS
NOTICE...LINES

- Why are lines used to indicate movement?
- How are lines used to indicate movement?
- How are lines used for emphasis?

HOW TO READ A COMIC BOOK:

STEP THREE – ART ANALYSIS
NOTICE...LINES

- Often the line used to _____ informs our _____ of the _____ too.
 - What does this mean (explain it in your own words)

Thin	Sketchy	Straight
Thick	Continuous	Curved

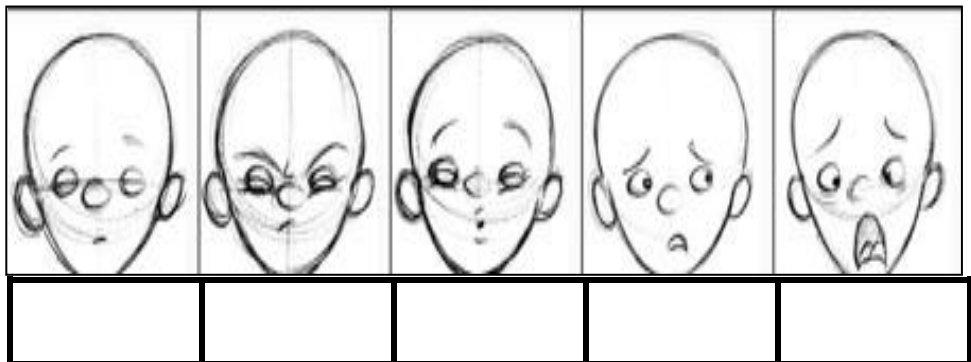
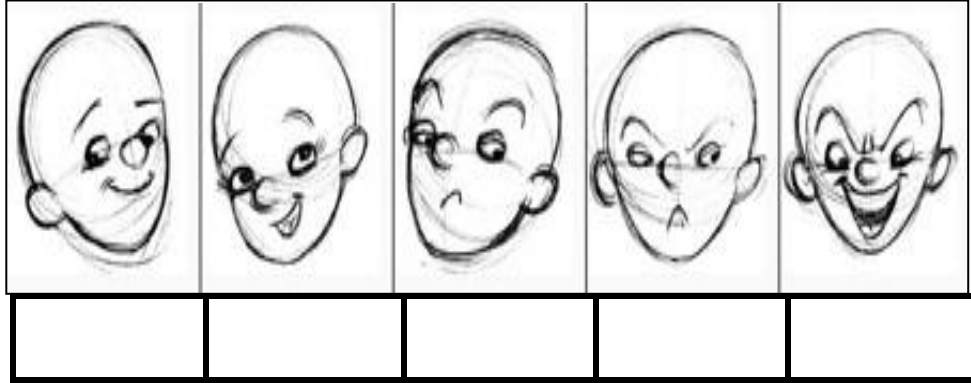
HOW TO READ A COMIC BOOK:

STEP THREE – ART ANALYSIS NOTICE...

CHARACTER DETAIL

- When analyzing facial expressions in graphic form, what features should we look at?

Facial Expressions: Label the facial expressions below (don't use the same one twice)



- Character/Panel Detail - Explain how these details might affect how we visually 'read' a character/panel
 - Hair Style/Clothing -
 - Body Language -
 - "Camera" Angle/Zoom -
 - What does Mr. Maher mean by "Camera"?
 - Shape of Panel-

ART ATTACK!!

Comment on the artist's use of:

- Color?

- Line?

- Facial expression?

- Shading?

- Character Detail?

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- Line?

- Facial expression?

- Shading?

- Character Detail?