CMX 304: Making Comics 1
X: Poetry comics & Abstract comics

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Response Gallery 23: Poetry Comic

Try your hand at a short piece of comics poetry as observed in class and on www.inkbrick.com. You may invent your own comics poem, or adapt an existing poem or song, but we want to stress that you push away from doing a straight representational piece and really think about the use of the form and the specific interaction of words and pictures to get your meaning/feeling across. Looking forward to what you come up with!
Heart of Gold

She was always told
She has a heart of gold

But what if
Her heart was used and told?

Would the gold be useless,
And lose its value?

Maybe... only if
Who she loves is shallow

From that, she should
Deter and realize that
No, because the heart
Is her!
For the Poetry comic I decided to go a bit abstract and try to convey the stress surrounding due dates and the little things in comparison to real life dangers like natural disasters. In the six circular panels they are bookended by the images of a due date and a regular living room. In between these panels are images of real world dangers like volcanos, tsunamis, and forest fires. This activity was a bit difficult as it was hard to define “comic poetry” and I am not even sure if this is comics poetry but it was a fun challenge to try a different comic style.
This took me a long time to think of. I do not write poetry or read much of it so my first thought was to pick a song to use. I think it turned out well. I liked how I made the skies continue across the panels despite them showing different times. This is also an example of crossing time & space.
Poetry Comic

I have never been one for poetry, but I really liked how this comic came out. I used Emily Dickinson’s poem *Hope is the Thing With Feathers* and tried to play on the words visually. I used certain words in each line to create each panel (feathers, perches, sings) and I left the last line empty to show that there wasn’t really an ending as the line suggests.
Jennifer

If I cannot find you, I will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... will... 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Poetry Comic

For this we had to get a little bit more abstract, or at least that's what I did.

I found a poem that I really liked, and decided to visually tell that poem without words to keep it from becoming literal much like poems do.

It was based off of a pre-existing poem written by Louis Simpson called *Lines Written Near San Francisco*. It highlights the fear and anxieties of the direction San Francisco was heading with modernization. The poem personifies this feeling of uncertainty by connecting it with the events of one of SF's largest earthquakes.
Age, and the deaths, and the ghosts
her having gone away
in spirit from me. Hosts
of regret come and find me empty

I don’t feel this will change
I don’t want anything
of person, familiar or strange
I don’t think I will ring

anymore just now,
or ever. I must start
to sit with a bland brow
above an empty heart.
This poem is by Gary Soto who uses a line of Shakespeare as the first line for all his poems.
The first line of this poem comes from Romeo and Juliet

Poetry comic

This liked using words from the poem like ‘star,’ and incorporating it into the art of the comic. Talking in class about what is considered a comic and what isn’t was a very interesting discussion and I learned sometimes it’s hard to put everything in a category.
LOOKING
IN THE
NIGHT

THE STARS IN THE SKY SHINE BRIGHT

MAKE A WISH TONIGHT
Poetry Comic

I wrote this while sitting on my roof one night. A city skyline at night will forever be poetic to me.
I thought this poem would be interesting to make into a comic because both the beginning and the ending are so well known. Also, the meaning is quite broad so by adding visual elements I thought I could pull it in different interesting directions. The visual elements show the steady building of an island for one man, revealed in the penultimate panel. I use the words to build a message of the interconnectness of all people, but also all people with their environment.

The prompts were to select: kinds of shapes, kinds of marks, overall page composition, select a mood. You can add additional constraint/prompts if you choose. Post with any reflective comments you care to share.
Abstract Comics
For the Abstract Comic activity I attempted to use lines and color to represent the concept “alarming”. The red I feel was an obvious, but I also tried using repetitive lines in opposing positions to create a disorienting feeling. Overall, I feel this is not my best work, the abstract concept is challenging and is something I feel I could work on and improve.
Melissa
Abstract Comic

With this comic exercise I wanted to emphasize the feelings we get when we are disrupted.

The lines act like cars in traffic, and the moment one car is disrupted it ends up affecting all the others around it. I show with direction and color shifts as well as line count.
Naomi: I used cutouts and patterns to do my abstract comic. They were supposed to be representative of the cycle of human emotions.
Gabriela
shakes: spirals
markings: scratchy
composition: 3 panel
mood: disillusionment
Julia

Abstract Comic Art

I remember the day we did this activity it was very rainy and dark and I tried to incorporate that feeling into this abstract art comic. I also liked for this activity that we chose a shape and feeling that we were specifically trying to display.
Keren
This is sadness