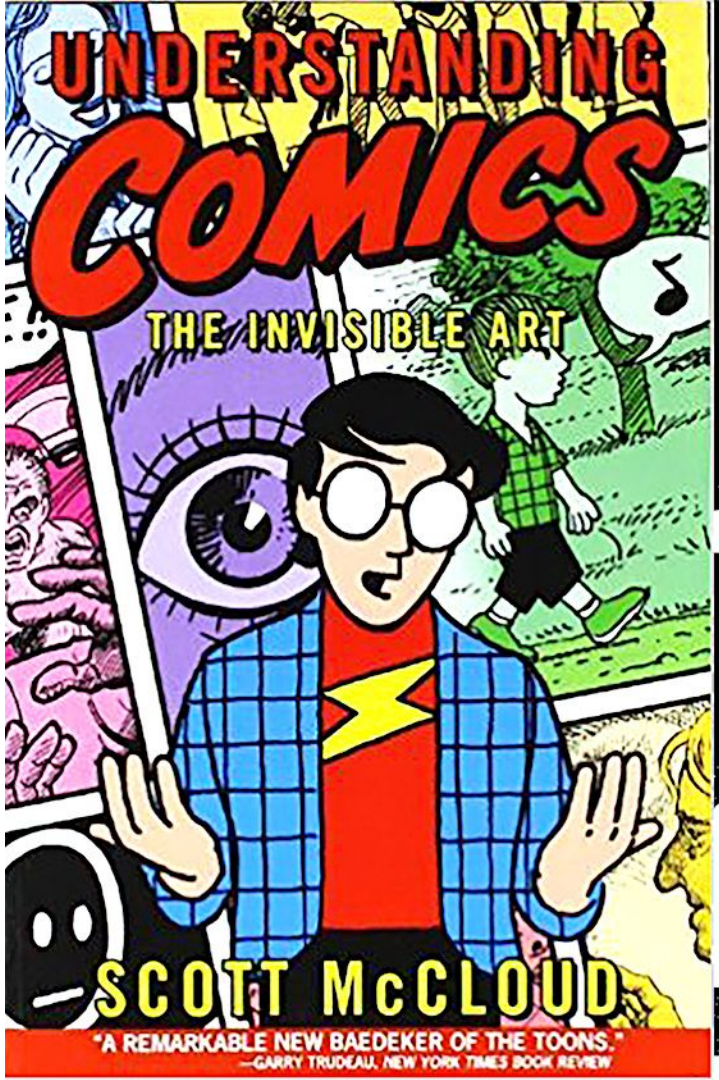
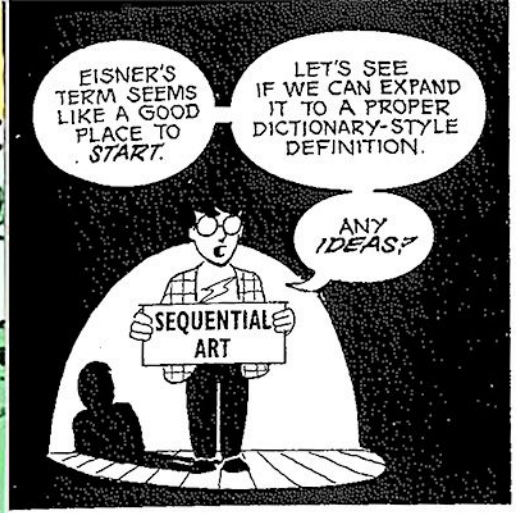
Comic Strips

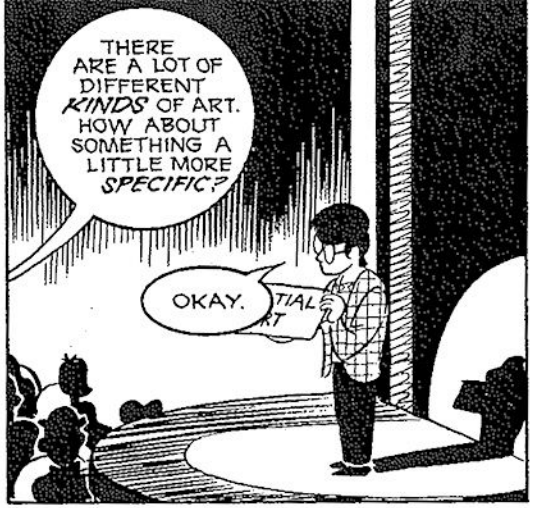
ELA with the Visual Arts

A Bit of Comic Book History

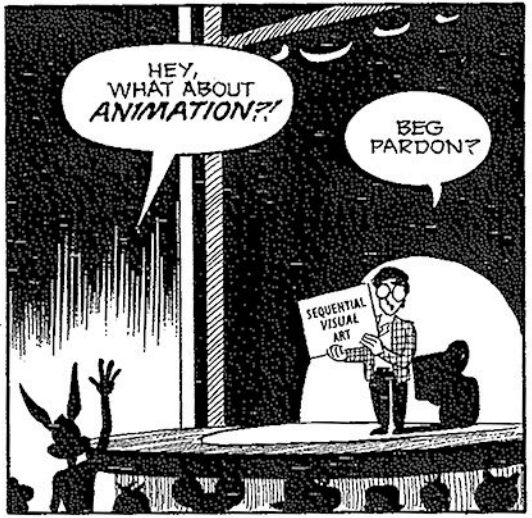
Images have been used to tell stories for centuries. In fact, we could consider almost all visual art as expressing narrative or ideas through images. So what sets comics apart? Scott McCloud does a great job of breaking down the concept of comics in his book Understanding Comics. He describes comics as "Sequential Art," though he goes much further into detail in the book as seen in the excerpt next.


UNDERSTANDING
COMICS
THE INVISIBLE ART
SCOTT McCLOUD
"A REMARKABLE NEW BAEDEKER OF THE TOONS."
—GARRY TRUDEAU, NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

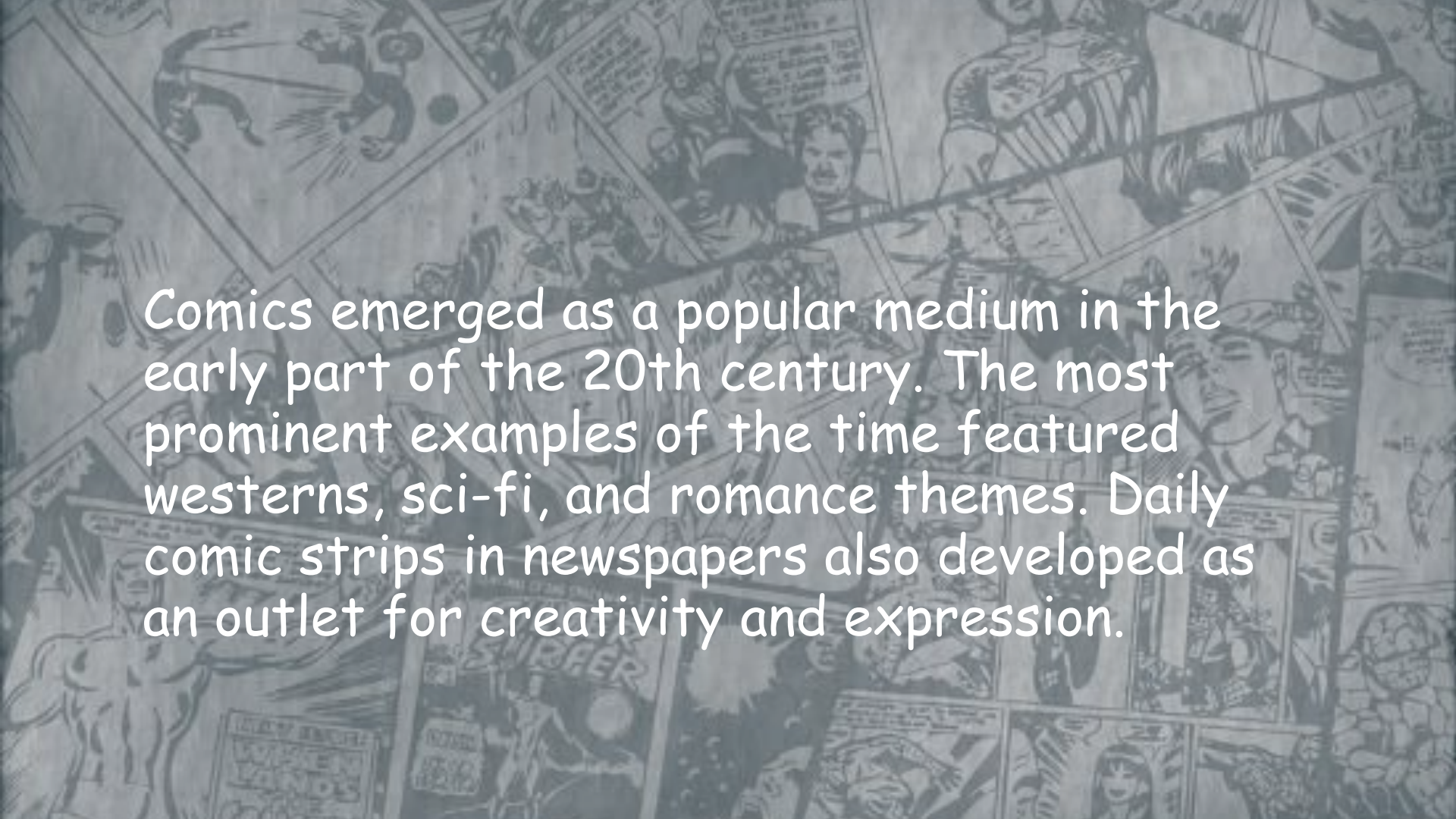

EISNER'S TERM SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN EXPAND IT TO A PROPER DICTIONARY-STYLE DEFINITION.
ANY IDEAS?
SEQUENTIAL ART


THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF ART. HOW ABOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?
OKAY.

HOW'S THIS?
SEQUENTIAL VISUAL ART


HEY, WHAT ABOUT ANIMATION?!
BEG PARDON?
SEQUENTIAL VISUAL ART

ISN'T ANIMATED FILM JUST VISUAL ART IN SEQUENCE?
HMM... GOOD POINT.



Comics emerged as a popular medium in the early part of the 20th century. The most prominent examples of the time featured westerns, sci-fi, and romance themes. Daily comic strips in newspapers also developed as an outlet for creativity and expression.

Bang! Pow! Zap! Superhero Comics

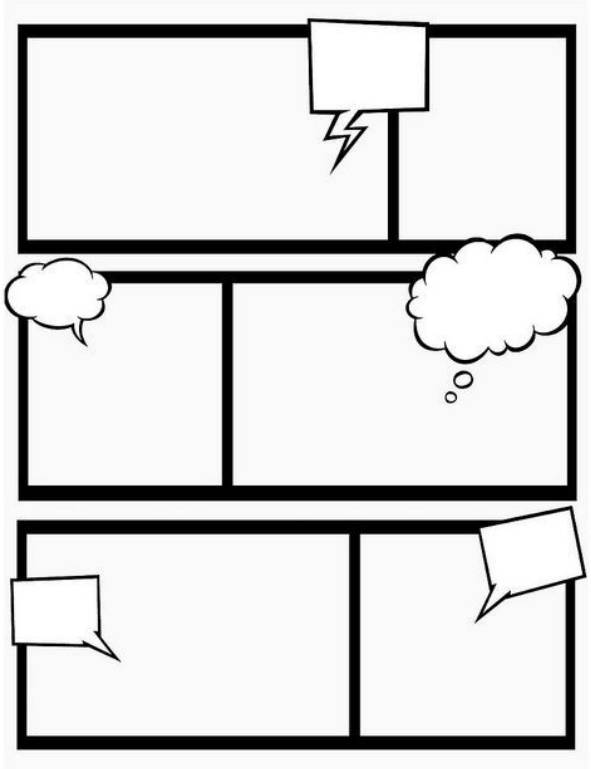
Of course, superhero comics were another popular genre. The history of these books is broken into four eras spanning from the 1930s to present day. The most recent era is known as "The Modern Age of Comic Books." It started in the mid-1980s and features an explosion of characters, many of whom are darker and grittier with a stronger basis in reality.

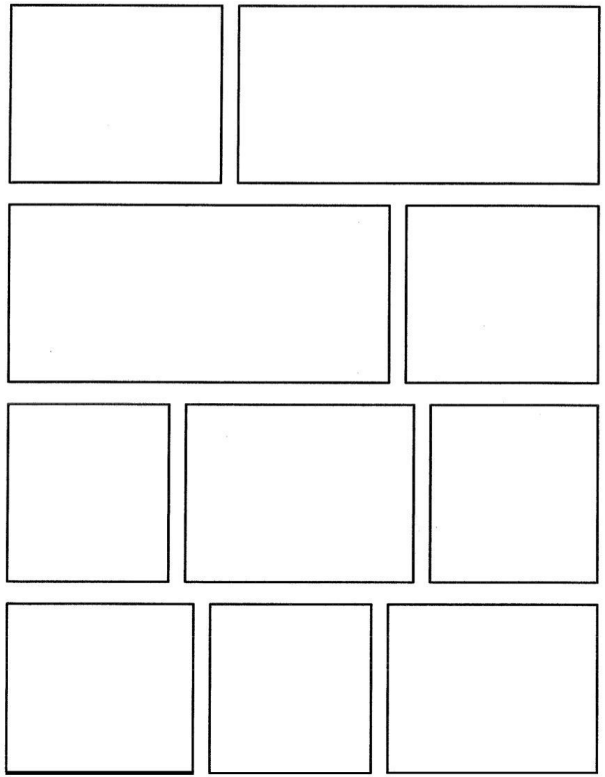
6 Modern Comics to Capture Your Interest

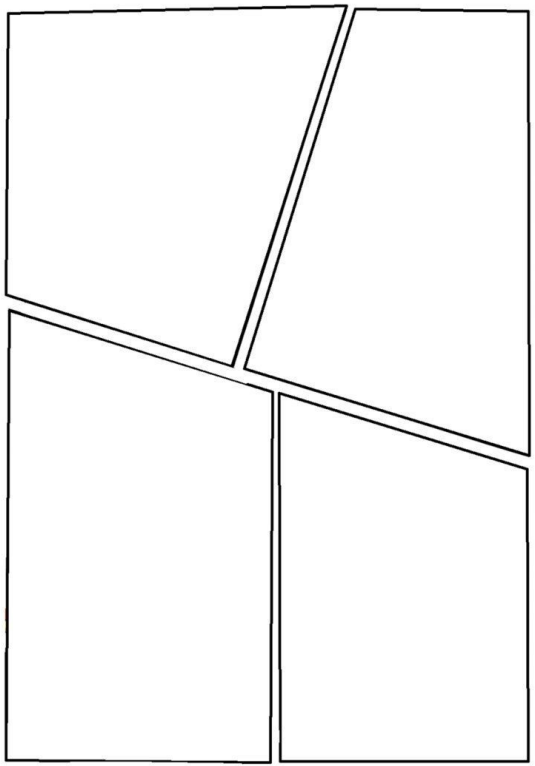
The main structure of most comic book stories involves 3 acts:

1. An introduction of context and characters.
2. The conflict encountered or goals to be achieved.
3. The resolution of the conflict.

Use a template to help you! You can use any of these or Google for your own Comic Strip Template!







Use Google to help you!

You can search:

"How to draw _____ easy" and it will break down what you want into images and steps!

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BY WATTERSON

Tips:

- Keep your story line straight forward (don't get too complicated!)
- Use a template for your layout or create one by hand with a ruler
- Look up examples of Comics that interest you
- Look up how to draw specific details that you want to include
- Finish your comic with clean lines by outlining them with a pen
- If you color, make sure you take your time (colored pencils or thin markers are recommended)
- Have fun!