

The Art of Visual Memory

Biography and Memoir in the Graphic Novel Format

Assistant Professor Sara Gómez Woolley | August 29th 2023

TOO SCARED TO DRAW

IN THE
BEGINNING
THERE WASN'T

DRAWING OR WRITING AS FAR AS OUR
FOUR-YEAR-OLD HAND WAS CONCERNED,
BUT AT SOME POINT SOON AFTER,
DRAWING SPLITS OFF, AND FOR MOST
PEOPLE IT MOVES FIRST TO THE MAR-
GINS AND THEN VANISHES FROM
THE PAGE ENTIRELY. IT'S A GHOST
FOR MOST PEOPLE, A SCARY ONE
WE AVOID ROUSING. WHEN WE MUST
DRAW, WE USE A SYMBOL. →

NO GHOST CAN
INHABIT A STICKMAN.
NO GHOST WANTS TO.



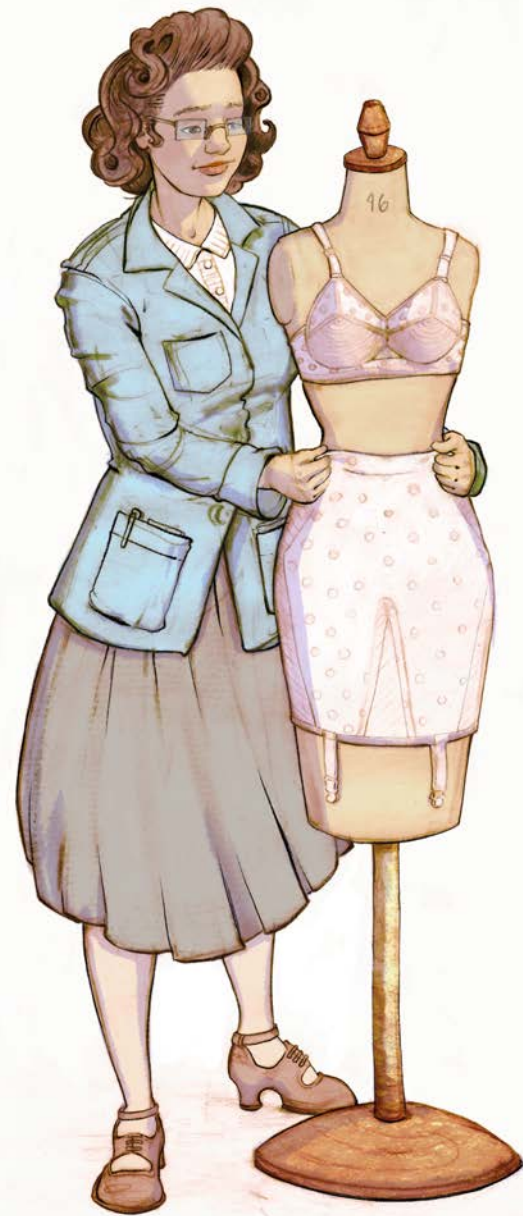
- Lynda Barry, Making Comics

What's your why?

- What interests you most about Visual Memoir and Biography?
- Is your desire to tell stories about real people connected to your life's purpose? If so how?
- Are you telling stories that reflect who you are?
- How is the work you are currently creating connected to who you are as a person?
- What do you and others appreciate most about your work?

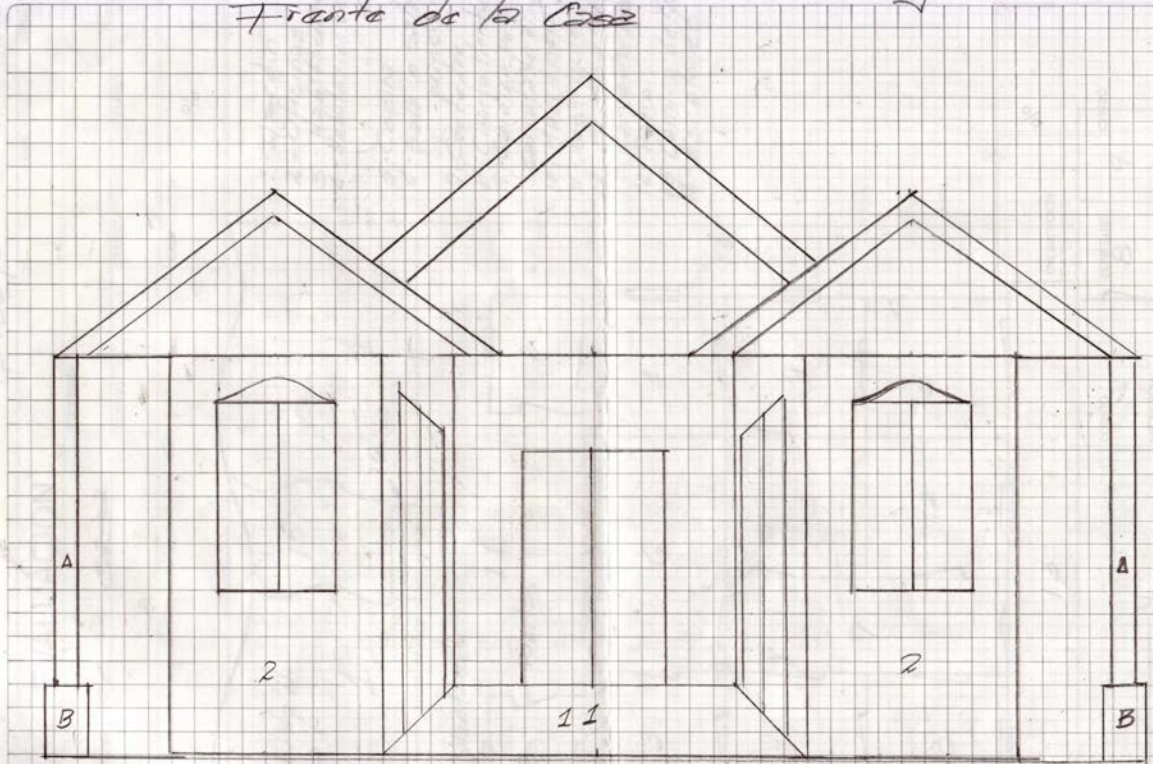
Sara Gómez Woolley

AUTHOR
ILLUSTRATOR





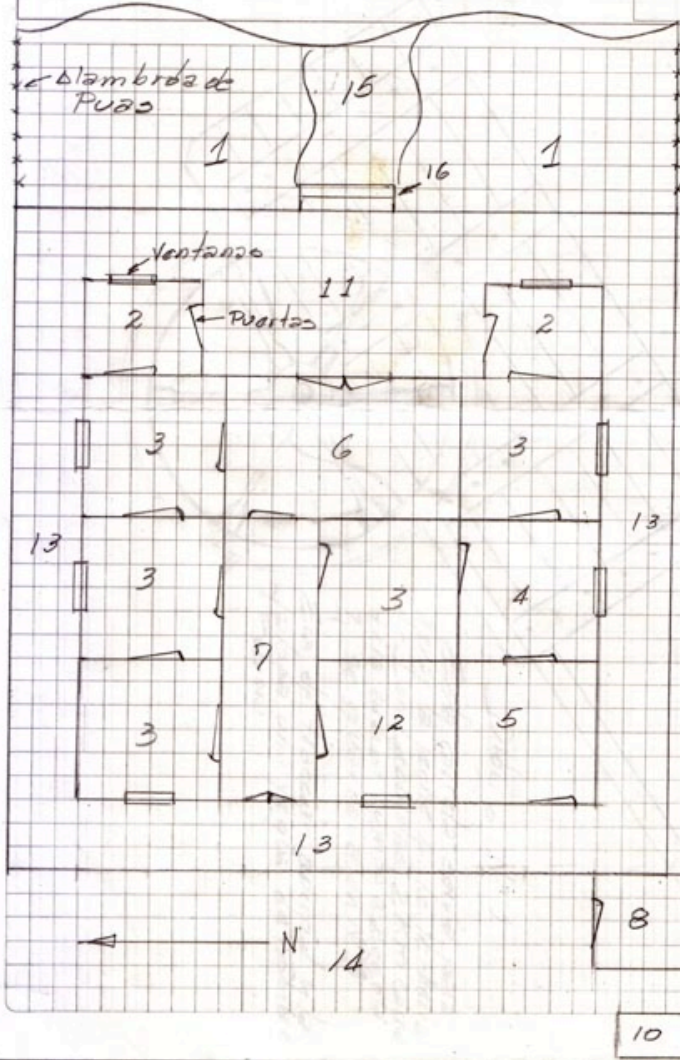
Fronte de la casa Dibujo 2



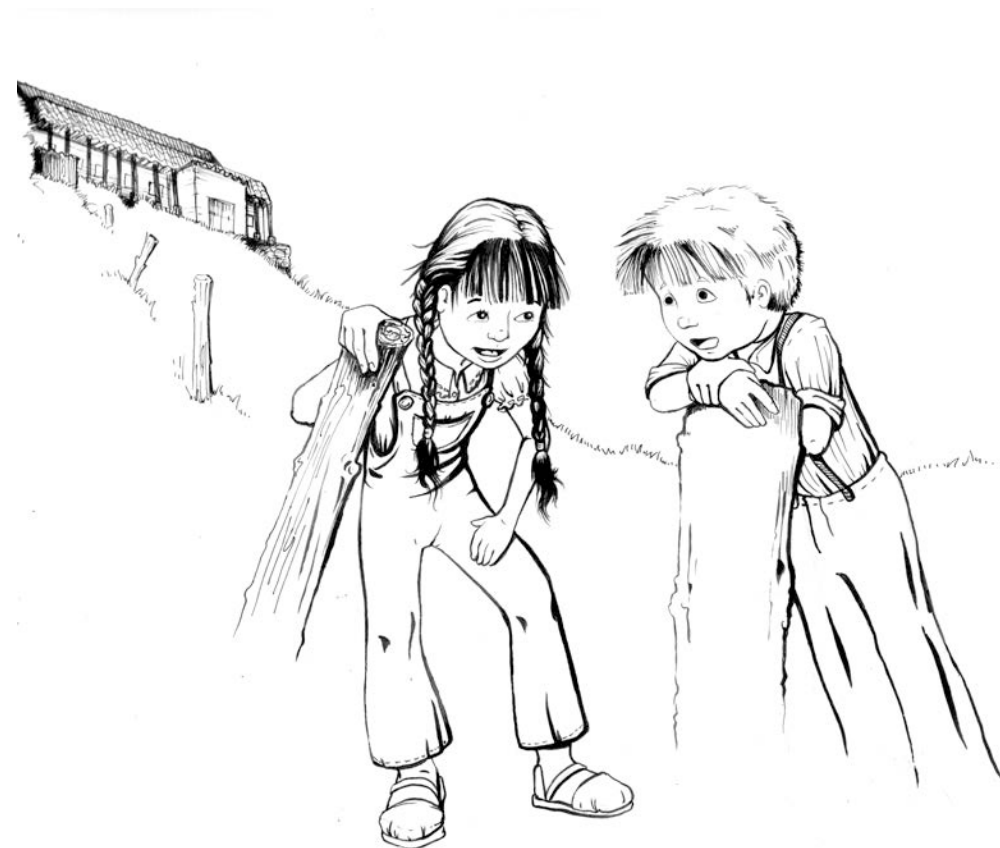
A Columna en madera
 B Base en piedra tallada
 2. Oficinas
 11. Vestibulo

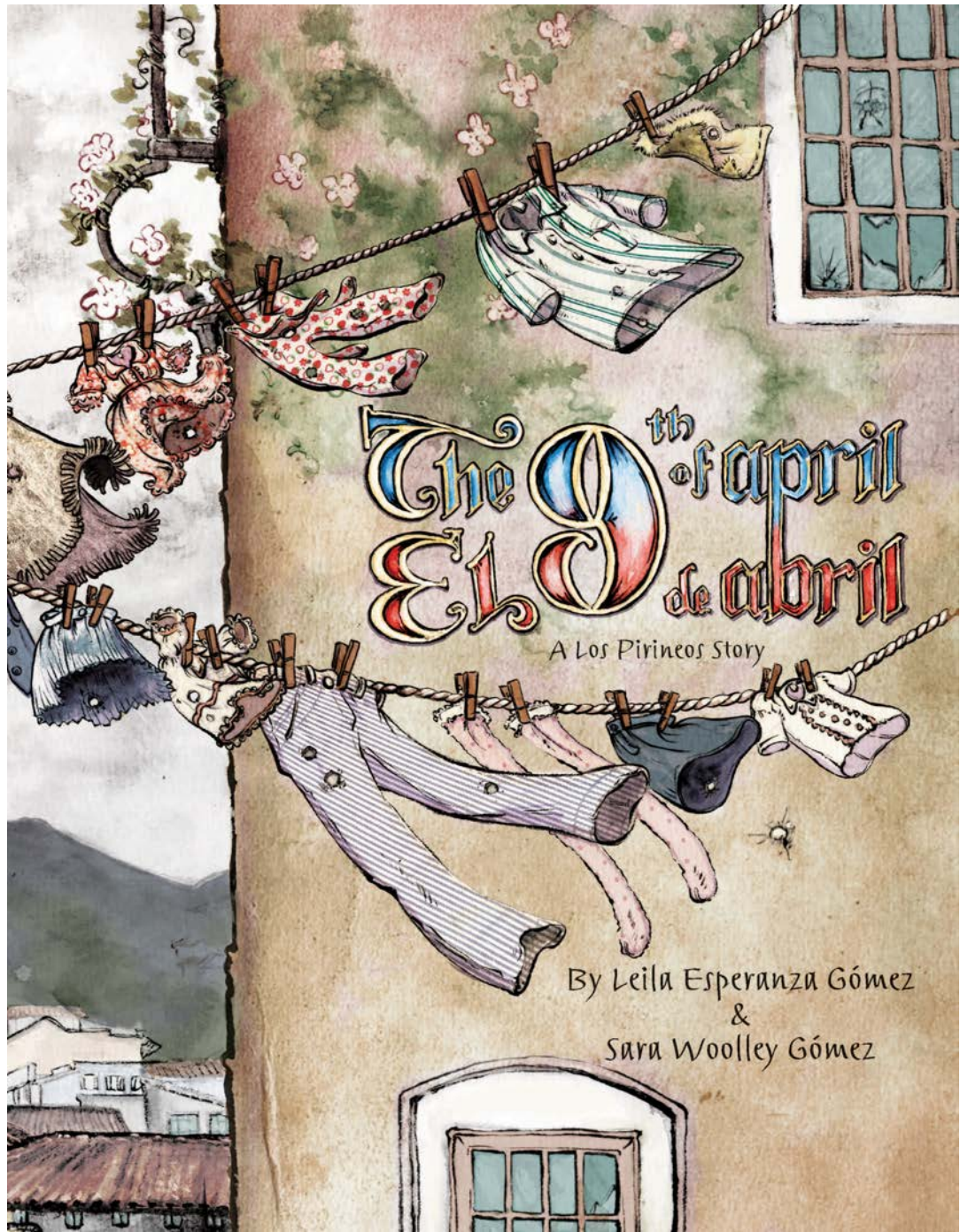
Dibujo

EVALUACION				DIA	MES	AÑO
INSTITUCION	Plano de la casa			PROFESOR		
ALUMNO				CODIGO	SEMESTRE	CURSO
MATERIA				CALIFICACION		%



- 1- Jardin
- 2- Oficinas
- 3- Habitaciones
- 4- Habilitacion de vivienda
- 5- Cocina
- 6- Sala o Salon principal
- 7- Corredor
- 8- Cuarto Monturas
- 9- Caidizo para la Carreta ver dibujo 1
- 10- Marañera
- 11- Vestibulo
- 12- Corredor interno
- 13- Patio
- 14- Camino de Grava
- 15- Escalones

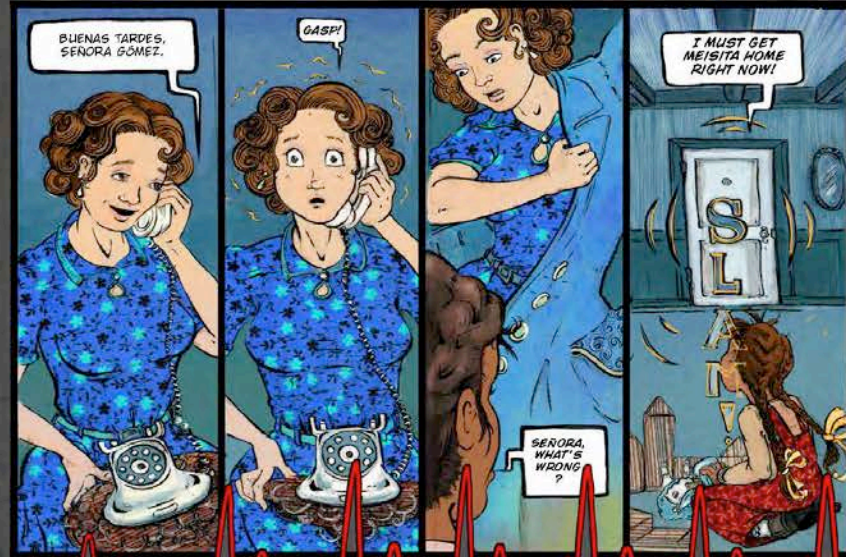




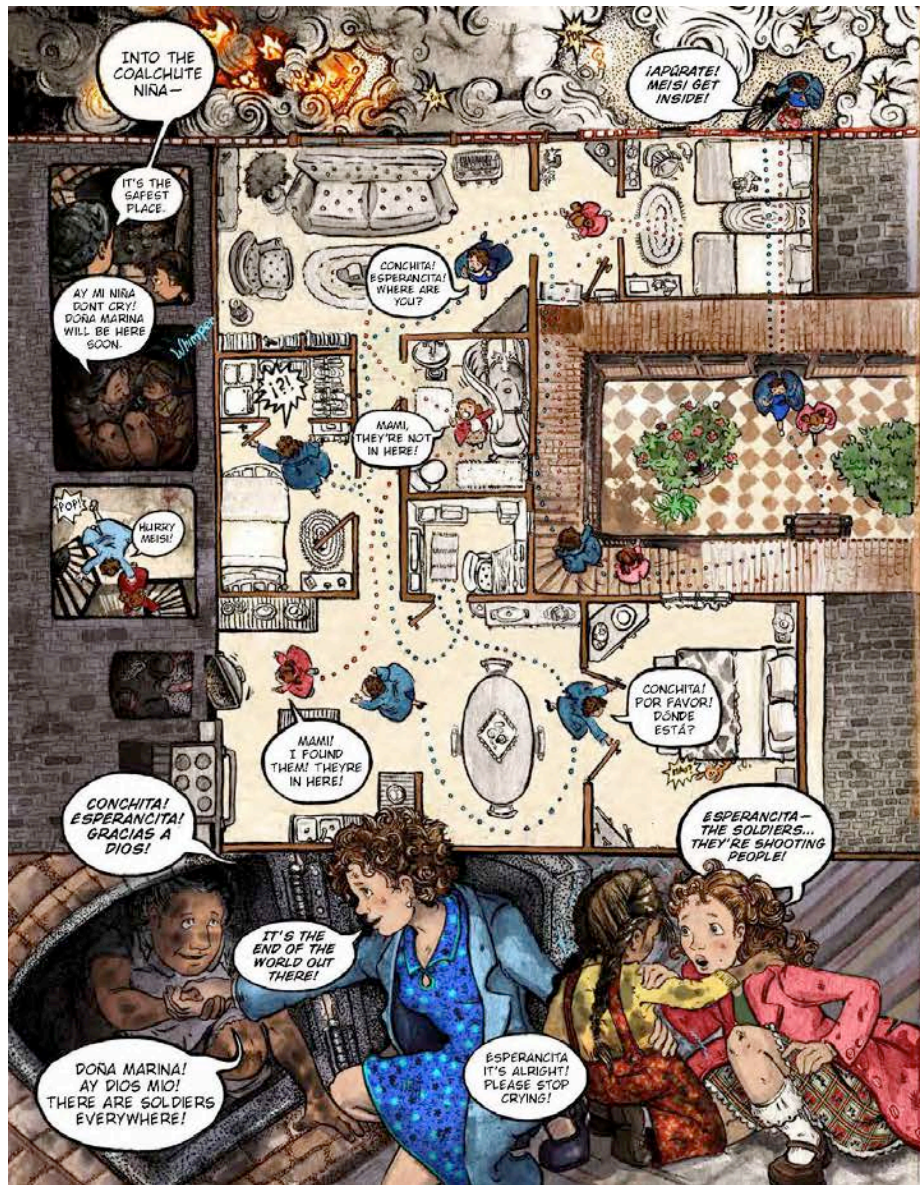
The 9th of April
El 9 de abril

A Los Pirineos Story

By Leila Esperanza Gómez
&
Sara Woolley Gómez







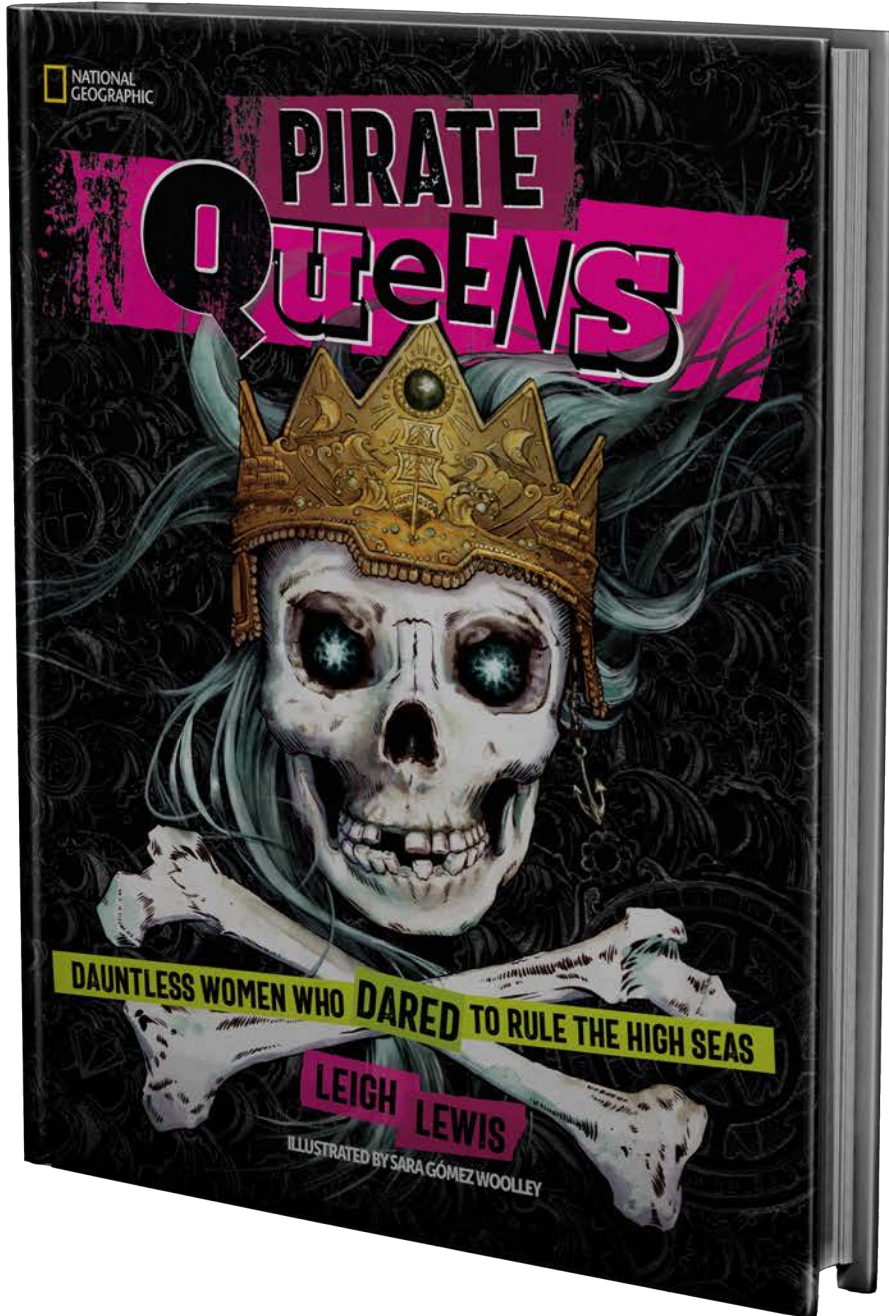


EMBODIED



AN INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST COMICS POETRY ANTHOLOGY





NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

PIRATE QUEENS

DAUNTLESS WOMEN WHO DARED TO RULE THE HIGH SEAS

LEIGH
LEWIS

ILLUSTRATED BY SARA GÓMEZ WOOLLEY

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS





-Asaf Hanuka, The Realist

What is Sequential Art? (a.k.a Comics)

ABOUT THIS COURSE:

Craft, Community, and Culture!

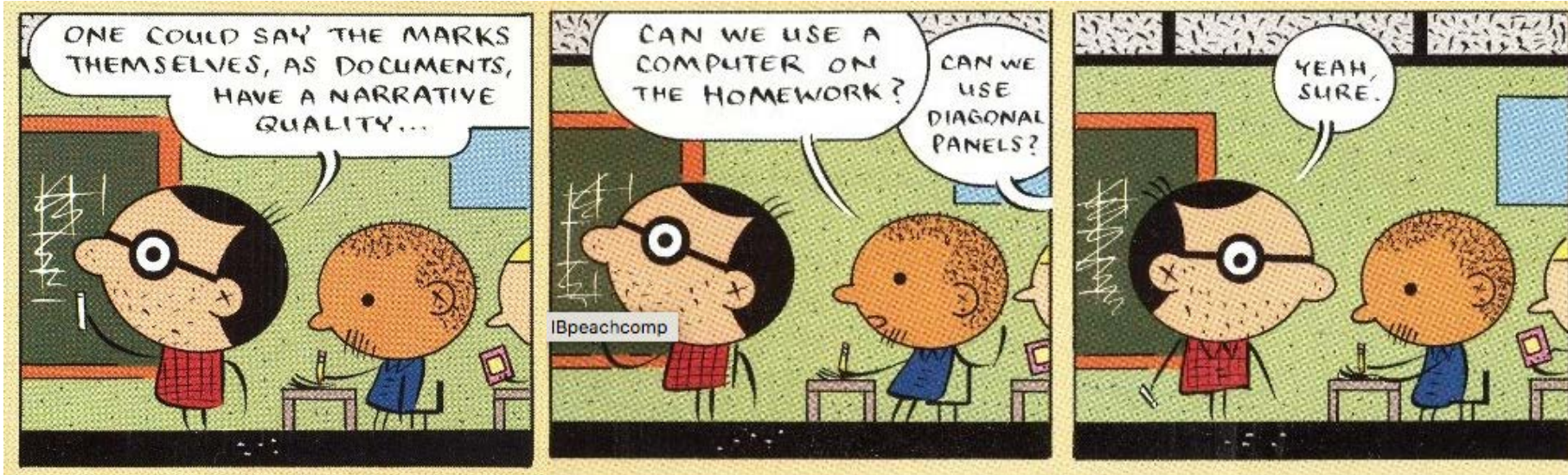
- [Reading List](#) : Reading VS. Making
- Critique and Discussion: [Class Discord](#)
- Craft: In-class activities (Like the one we just did!)
- [FINAL PROJECT](#)
- Grading Policy: EFFORT, TIME, CARE, GROWTH, STORY, CRAFT, CLARITY (not rendering.)

Philosophy:

Comics are language. Every language can be learned.

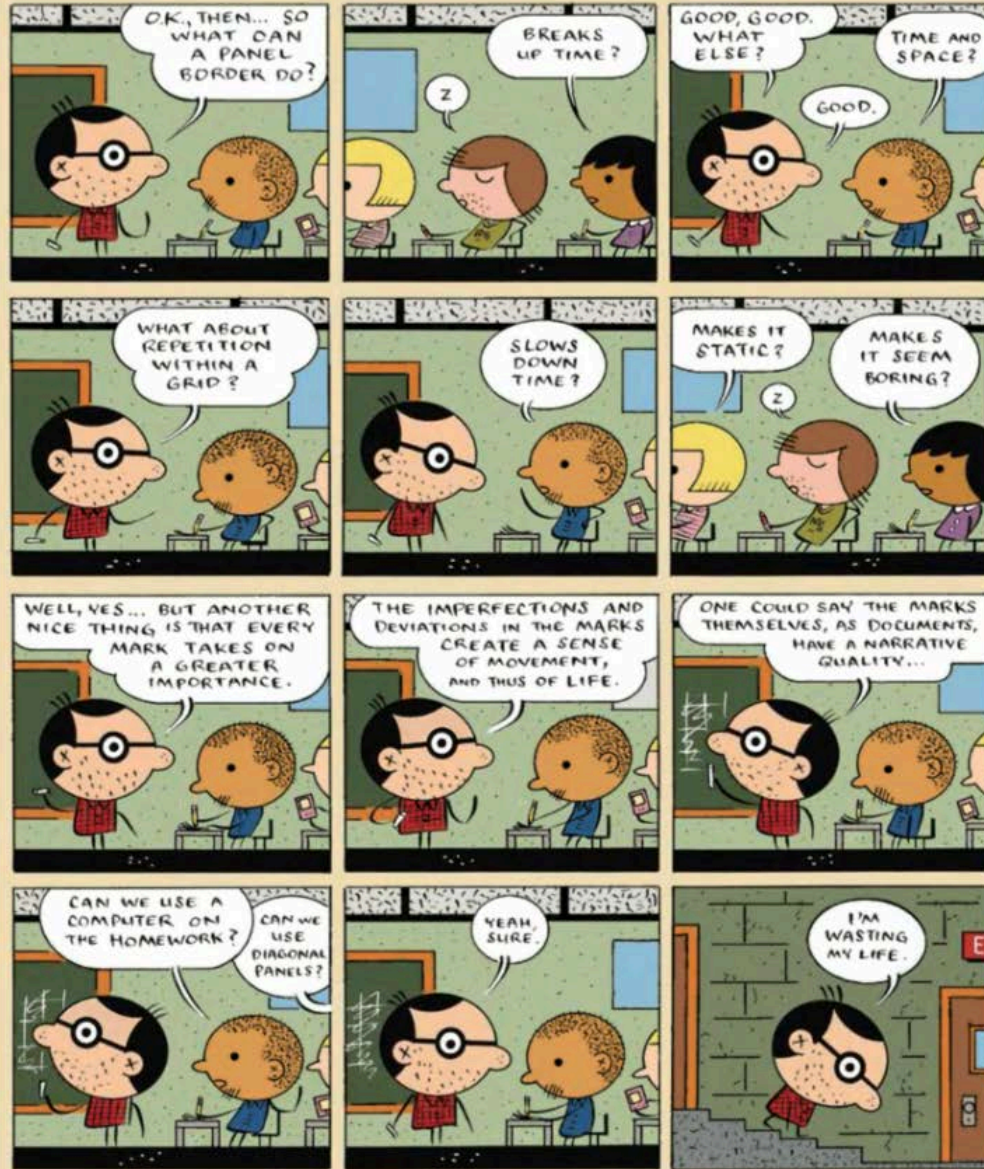
Comics are a language with a distinct Grammar Set. It's made up of Sequential Reading (left - right up down), of grammatical parts which are composed of BOTH words and images.

Realistic drawing is NOT a requirement.



Ivan Brunetti – excerpt from Mr. Peach, a strip about teaching from The New Yorker

Mr. Peach



BRUNETTI

CRAFT 25%

Each week there will be an in-class activity or assignment. These are short-form, hands-on projects that are meant for learning, practice, and experimentation in the comic format. You will begin them in class and will be expected to share them for critique in the following week. These are not individually graded assignments. Their value is as part of the learning process, independent of the final outcome.

COMMUNITY 25%

This class is planned to function as a creative crucible! In order to do so we need to build an active writing community to share ideas, critique work, work and support. There are multiple channels to participate in building our class culture factored into the overall grading system.

In this course, you are expected to help grow and care for our creative community. Here are some ideas of ways to contribute:

- Participate in our DISCORD (required)
- Moderate our DISCORD
- Facilitate Reading Discussions
- Design, Edit, and Layout our class anthology. (Help!)
- Solicit feedback on your work in process (Discord and in class)
- Critique each other's work (Discord and in class)
- Knowledge Share! – We all come from a range of diverse experiences and spaces of expertise. PLEASE volunteer to share your knowledge!

FINAL PROJECT 50%

Though there will be multiple projects throughout the semester (see CRAFT) there will be only one graded assignment. Students will work over the course of the semester on one Memoir, Biography, or Auto Bio project that will be proposed by week 3 of the semester and is due on week 15. Comic length, medium, and other outcomes will be tailored to the individual project and author.

We are our first character.

We will be exploring personal voice through a daily diary practice.
With the purpose of finding our comics voice.



THE DAILY DIARY



MATERIALS: FLAIR PEN, COMBBOOK, TIMER

1. *about 20 minutes* use LEFT HAND PAGE

ON A CLEAN PAGE OF YOUR COMBBOOK, DRAW A "REVIEW FRAME" THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS →

WRITE TODAY'S DATE

DID	SAW
1	1
2	2
3 3 MINUTES	3 3 MINUTES
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
HEARD SOMEONE SAY 30 SECONDS	QUESTION ABOUT THE DAY 30 SECONDS

2. SET A TIMER FOR 3 MINUTES. IN THE FIRST COLUMN, WRITE 7 OR SO THINGS YOU DID IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

3. REPEAT THIS IN THE SECOND COLUMN BUT THIS TIME WRITE DOWN THINGS YOU SAW.

4. WRITE SOMETHING YOU HEARD SOMEONE SAY *here you*

ABOUT 30 MINS including SETUP

5. WRITE A QUESTION THAT CAME UP FOR YOU IN THE LAST BOX - SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT.

THESE LAST TWO BOXES SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 30 SECONDS EACH

6. READ OVER YOUR 7 MINUTE DIARY AND CHOOSE AN IMAGE FROM EITHER THE DID OR SAW LIST, THINKING OF EACH THING AS A SCENE. EVERYTHING ON THOSE LISTS INVOLVES THE SETTING AND SOMETHING YOU WERE DOING: SOME KIND OF ACTION

use right hand page

DRAWING OF YOURSELF IN THE SCENE, INCLUDING YOUR WHOLE BODY, ENGAGED IN SOME ACTION 5 MINUTES

SETTING:
APPROX TIME:

5 MINUTES

7. DRAW A FRAME THAT TAKES UP ABOUT HALF A PAGE

8. BELOW IT WRITE THE PLACE WHERE THIS SCENE HAPPENED AND THE APPROXIMATE TIME IT TOOK PLACE

9. SET THE TIMER FOR FIVE MINUTES AND WRITE THIS SCENE IN THE FIRST PERSON PRESENT TENSE - LIKE IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW. KEEP YOUR PEN MOVING THE WHOLE TIME -

10. DRAW YOURSELF IN THE SCENE USING THE 'BRUNETTI STYLE' FOR 5 MINUTES WITHOUT STOPPING

ALTERNATE between BEGINNING WITH the DRAWING every other day. REVERSE STEPS 9 AND 10.

note: you can always spend more than the suggested time, but not less.

DID

1. WOKE UP BECAUSE OF SIRENS-SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE FROM SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS ALL HEADING SOUTH. ABOUT 4 AM
2. WENT BY THE AMISH, GOT GAS + GAS STATION CHICKEN, WENT TO ALBANY.
3. READ "WARTAASH" IN THE BATH TUB FOR TWO HOURS
4. WORKED ON MCI BOOK WITH BRITISH PERIOD DRAMAS PLAYING ON YOU TUBE
5. WALKED THE GROVE LISTENING TO THE MCI 518 PLAYLIST
6. DREW A 12 PANEL 12 MINUTE COMIC STRIP ABOUT A GUY GETTING ATTACKED BY A CAT
7. WATCHED 'NASHVILLE' UNTIL RAYNA DIED AND DECIDED I WAS DONE WITH IT.

OH, I DRIVE FOR THE AMISH. I DRIVE THE ONES FROM UP NORTH A WAY S. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WOULD KNOW ANY OF THEM?

OVER HEARD

SAW

1. ALL OF THE DOGS TOYS SCATTERED ON THE BACK PORCH. THE HULK'S HEAD HAS BEEN CHEWED OFF.
2. CHURCH VAN WITH 8 PEOPLE GETTING OUT OF IT. ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES BUYING GROCERIES TOGETHER.
3. BARN SWALLOW ON HER NEST LOOKING DOWN AT ME FROM FRONT PORCH CROSS BEAM
4. RIPLEY'S RAINY T-SHIRT WITH FLAMING SKELETON AS THE BODY OF THE MOTOR CYCLE.
5. THE HORROR HAIRBALL
6. WHAT HA JIN LOOKS LIKE
7. EVERYTHING TURNING THAT DEEP BLUE AFTER SUNSET-THE FIELD TO THE WEST OF THE HOUSE

I WONDER IF ANYONE HAS EVER DOCUMENTED THE OBJECTS LEFT BEHIND BY POWS. - ESPECIALLY THE THINGS THEY FASHIONED TO MAKE THEIR SITUATIONS MORE COMFORTABLE.

QUESTION



✂ GOT GAS ✂ GOT GAS STATION CHICKEN ○○○○

I'M AT PUMP FOUR AT THE ALBANY MOBILE STATION FINISHING FILLING UP AND TRYING TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF GOING INSIDE TO GET SOME FRIED CHICKEN AND ICED TEA. A YOUNG WOMAN IN SHORTS AND PRETTY SANDALS GOES IN BEFORE ME, HOLDS THE DOOR SO IT DOESN'T SHUT ON ME AND SMILES: A FLOWERED SUMMER BLOUSE, SHORT BLONDE HAIR IN KIND OF A MOM CUT, SHE LOOKS PRETTY STRAIGHT, HAS A CUTE HAND BAG, I WATCH HER B-LINE FOR THE CHICKEN COUNTER. THERE IS A SIGN FEATURING THE FRANCHISE LOGO HANGING ABOVE THE VERY SHY GIRL WHO IS TAKING HER ORDER. IT'S A DRAWING OF A SORT OF 'RISKY BUSINESS' ERA-TOM CRUISE-WITH SUNGLASSES-AND-CHEF'S-HAT LINE DRAWING. THE GIRL HAS A WORD TATTOOED ON BOTH ARMS BUT I CANT READ IT.

Meet the Artist / Comics Me

Create a Comics Me in a "meet the artist" page in your sketchbook.

Draw a comics version of yourself as a method introduction and exploring your voice.

Consider your personal visual style or play with styles you find interesting and experiment!

Added challenge: Consider the different ways text and image interact on a page.

Comics self portraits by...



Ivan Brunetti



Lynda Barry



Raina Teiglmeier



Asaf Hanuka



Art Spiegelman



Phoebe Gloeckner



Robert Crumb



Marjane Satrapi

YEAR: 2001

AGE: 15

GRADE: 10

LOVE INTERESTS:

TREVOR. TREVOR
ALL DAY ALL
NIGHT. TREVOR FOREVER.

FRIENDS: GIRLS! JESSICA,
ZOE, KELLIE, & SHEILA.
AND THEIR BOYFRIENDS.

INTERESTS: SONGWRITING,
NO DOUBT, MANIC PANIC
HAIR DYE, ENVIRONMENTALISM,
JOINING LOTS OF CLUBS.

DISLIKES: JEANS,
ROPE CLIMB IN
GYM CLASS, MOST
CARTOONS, SALAD
DRESSING, VIDEO
GAMES.



YEAR: 2002

AGE: 16

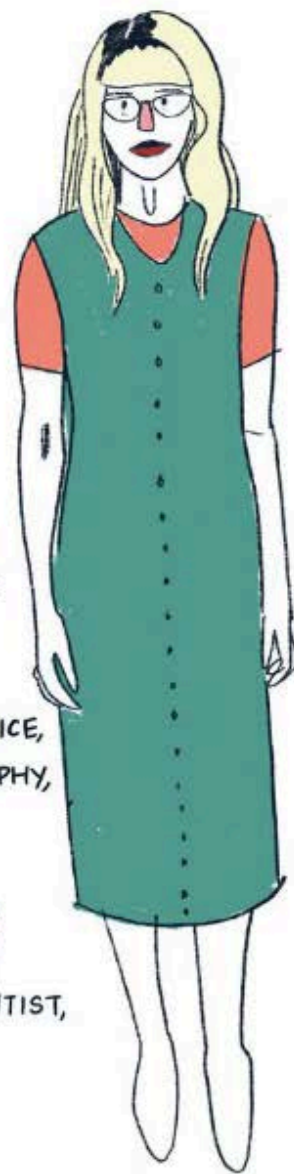
GRADE: 11

LOVE INTERESTS: ELI.

FRIENDS: THERE ARE
LOTS! MAYBE THERE
ARE TOO MANY TO LIST.
BUT JESSICA & BEN ARE
THE MAIN ONES.

INTERESTS: SOCIAL JUSTICE,
THE ACTOR CILLIAN MURPHY,
VEGANISM, BEN FOLDS.

DISLIKES: GEORGE W.
BUSH, FUNDAMENTALIST
CHRISTIANITY, THE DENTIST,
GAP CLOTHING,
AVRIL LAVIGNE.



YEAR: 2003

AGE: 17

GRADE: 12

LOVE INTERESTS: BEN.

FRIENDS: MOSTLY JUST BEN.

INTERESTS: R-RATED MOVIES, ACTIVISM IN ALL ITS MANY FORMS, THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, EMO MUSIC, AVRIL LAVIGNE (BUT IRONICALLY).

DISLIKES: ALCOHOLISM, SCARY MOVIES & TV, CHOCOLATE, PSYCHOTHERAPY, MOST GIRLS.



Chapter ONE:

Young Sophie,
MEET
Today Sophie

THESE ENTRIES TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE YEARS 1999 AND 2004. BECAUSE THEY'RE ORGANIZED BY THEME, THEY'RE NOT TOTALLY CHRONOLOGICAL. FEEL FREE TO REFER BACK TO THESE PAGES TO UNDERSTAND THE SUBTLE BUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN OUR HERO, YOUNG SOPHIE.

YEAR: 1999/2000

AGE: 14

GRADE: 9

LOVE INTERESTS: MANY & FLUCTUATING, BUT THE MAJOR CHARACTERS ARE JOE & TREVOR.

FRIENDS: BASICALLY, JOE & TREVOR. SOPHIE & JOE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE FIVE.

FAMILY: MOM & DAD ARE MARRIED & WORK AT A COLLEGE. SISTER ALEXIS IS TWO YEARS YOUNGER.

INTERESTS: FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK BOOKS, RIDER STRONG FROM BOY MEETS WORLD, GROWING LONGER HAIR, THE SPICE GIRLS (BUT NOT OPENLY), SCRUNCHIES, VEGETARIANISM, POETRY.

DISLIKES: PASTA, MOST OF THE GIRLS AT SCHOOL, ALL SCIENCE CLASSES, SPORTS, DAWSON'S CREEK, OUTSIDE.

