

# Comic Strip

## GUIDELINES

**Objective:** Students create a comic strip to retell an important part of their historical fiction books.

Bring in the funny pages from a newspaper and any additional comic strips you think will provide a good example for students. Ask students to name the components and characteristics of a comic strip. Discuss the use of illustrations, characters, and speech balloons. Explain that the comic strips that students create do not need to be humorous. (If students' historical fiction books deal with serious subjects, such as slavery, have students complete a different project that would be more appropriate.)

Note in the examples that comic strips often use dialogue and action to tell a short story. Have students consider this as they choose the part of the story they will retell. After they have decided on a part of the book that would lend itself well to the comic strip format, students write a summary of that part of the book. Students then sketch their comic strip to make sure they can fit all of the information in about eight panels. If students find it too difficult to draw the characters, they can draw stick figures instead.

Make a class funny pages section with all of the completed projects. Fold large sheets of newsprint in half, like a newspaper. Add a heading at the top of each page that includes the name of the newspaper and the date. Attach the comic strips to the pages and display on a tabletop. Or you might display the comic strips on a bulletin board.



## Historical Fiction

# Comic Strip

For this project, you'll create a comic strip based on a part of the historical fiction book you read. Your comic strip should include illustrations as well as text. Look at real comic strips for ideas.

### MATERIALS

large sheets of white construction paper, thin markers or colored pencils, ruler

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a book of historical fiction that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Choose an important or exciting part of the book that you would like to retell in your comic strip. Find a part that will allow you to include action and dialogue. Write a one-paragraph summary of this part of the book.
- 3 Refer to your summary as you sketch your comic strip. Decide what you will include in each panel. Your comic strip should include about eight panels in all. If you have difficulty drawing the characters, you may draw stick figures. Make sure to give them some identifiable characteristics so that the reader can tell them apart. Also make sure that the sequence of events is clear and easy to follow.
- 4 Position a sheet of white construction paper horizontally and draw eight boxes of equal size. (You might need to make some larger and some smaller, depending on what you will include in each.) Draw and write in pencil first, then copy over with pen or thin marker. Keep the illustrations and text as neat as possible. Then, color your comic strip.
- 5 Give your comic strip a title. Write your name, the book title, and the author's name on your project.

### DUE DATES

Book approved  
\_\_\_\_\_

Book finished  
\_\_\_\_\_

Project finished  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comic Strip

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

|   | Student Check | Possible Points | Points Earned |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Was your book approved by the due date?                                 |               | 5               |               |
| Did you hand in this rubric with your project?                          |               | 5               |               |
| Did you hand in your project on time?                                   |               | 10              |               |
| Did you choose an interesting or exciting part of the book?             |               | 10              |               |
| Did you write a one-paragraph summary?                                  |               | 10              |               |
| Did you complete your comic strip? Do you have at least 8 sections?     |               | 20              |               |
| Does your comic strip effectively retell the selected part of the book? |               | 10              |               |
| Does your comic strip include illustrations and text?                   |               | 10              |               |
| Is your comic strip neat and easy to follow?                            |               | 10              |               |
| Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?                     |               | 10              |               |
| Total Points  |               | 100             |               |

Comments: