

Understanding Comics by Scott McCloud

Chapter 4: Time Frames

Directions: While reading chapter 4 in McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, complete the following notes sheet. Notes are organized in a format that makes it easier to follow as a reference, not necessarily in chronological order of how McCloud explains the concepts.

How do you show motion in an art where time stands still?

Illusion of time is shown through

- 1) Words – introduce time through sound
- 2) Intervals – create time through closure
- 3) Pictures – show time through visual effects

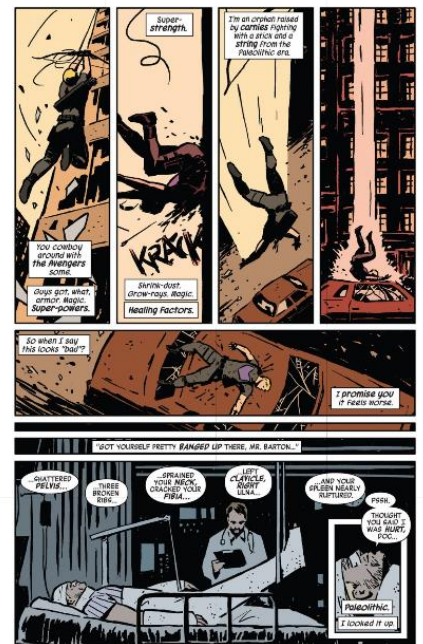
Words

- Word balloons and sound effects introduce time
- Each _____ has a certain duration
- Dialogue doesn't happen all at the same time
- Panel with dialogue is like a _____
 - o Rope travels from dialogue box to dialogue box
 - o Each _____ represents a second
 - o Every image and corresponding dialogue box is read in sequence
 - Each sequence occupies a distinct time slot

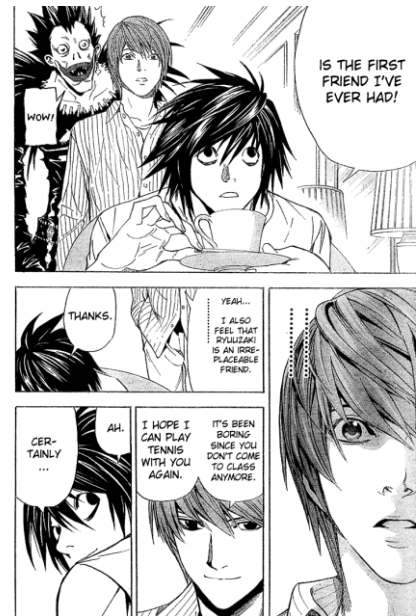


Intervals (aka Gutters)

- Time equals space
- Create time through closure between panels
- Reveal time through:
 - o Showing actions across panels
 - _____ panel can show a single moment
 - _____ panel shows longer duration
 - o Making gutters wider
 - Thin gutter shows a _____ or regular passage of time
 - _____ distance between frames creates a feeling of more time passing



- Changing the shape of panel
 - _____ panel shows a brief moment
 - _____ panel feels like a _____ period of time has passed
- Changing the panel _____
 - _____ panel takes on timeless quality
 - Objects breaking through or bleeding into borders, shows a continuation of time
 - Popular in _____
 - Newer technique in U.S.



Pictures

- Durations of time and the dimensions of that space are defined more by the _____ of the panel than by the panel itself
- Time shown by:
 - Repeating image to elongate time
 - Drawing “_____” or “zip ribbons”
 - Paths of moving objects through space represented through _____
 - Backgrounds and moving object are _____ and distinct
 - Path of motion is imposed over the scene
 - Multiple images in the same frame to represent movement
 - Photographic streaking effects
 - Blurring effect
 - If camera moves with object, then the object is focused and the background is _____
 - Polyptych effect
 - Moving figure or figures is imposed over a _____ background

