Storytelling, Folktales and the Comic Book Format

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Abstract
The reading process in comics is an extension of text. In text alone the process of reading involves word-to-image conversion. Comics accelerate that by providing the image. When properly executed, it goes beyond conversion and speed and becomes a seamless whole. In every sense, this misnamed form of reading is entitled to be regarded as literature because the images are employed as a language. There is a recognizable relationship to the iconography and pictographs of oriental writing. When this language is employed as a conveyance of ideas and information, it separates itself from mindless visual entertainment. This makes comics a storytelling medium.

Comments
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Recommended Citation

Includes bibliographical references (p. 201-205) and index. For those who want to begin storytelling but don't know where to start, The Storyteller's Start-Up Book offers everything one could ask for. Margaret Read MacDonald, a folklorist and children's librarian who is also a touring storyteller, offers basic start-up information on finding stories, looking at them critically, starting a story bank, networking with other storytellers, and creating a storytelling event. Storytelling. People have always told stories. In modern times we usually enjoy stories as a form of entertainment and escapism, but stories also serve to connect people. We tell each other stories to share a laugh, to persuade and to build relationships: a joke in the pub, an
advertising campaign, a tale for our children. There is something irresistible and universal about a well-crafted story. The strongest tales are those from our past. Folk tales have survived being passed down through generations, and traditionally would have been told by people as an attempt to explain the world around us. Anthony Desiato tells the story of comics fans through comic book shops in My Comic Shop Country film. Episode 100: Badass Annie Wersching on the future of 24’s Renee Walker and having children with aliens on Marvel’s Runaways. Episode 90: Marv Wolfman interview. Read: Comic book movies are aiming toward realistic portrayals of our favorite heroes. Yet is that right for the story?

Most modern tales have the princess break the curse through a kiss. In this Italian folktale, the reader is taught that wishes can become reality, especially if you work for them. Unfortunately, this isn’t the reality of Fables. After Pinocchio’s transformation, Geppetto watched the boy leave to experience adventure and the high seas.