**Design Feature Search**

Length: 20 Minutes

Materials: Enlarged Comic (Projected Pages or Large Prints); Sticky Notes; Selection of Comics & Graphic Novels

Have students look through a collection of comic books and graphic novels for unique features.

* Pass out sticky notes to each student.
* Allow students to work individually or in groups.
* Explain that comic books and graphic novels are a unique medium. They differ drastically in form from traditional novels because they feature pictures, and they differ drastically from film because the pictures don’t move. In order to read or make a comic, students need to understand what these things are and how they work.
* Ask students for an example of a design feature that is unique to comics. Point this feature out on the enlarged comic. Write the feature on a sticky note and stick it to the enlarged comic.
* Explain that we want to develop a list of key design features that comic books and graphic novels rely on to tell their stories. They should use the sticky notes to identify and label the different features that they find in the selection of comic books provided.

Collect the features students have found.

* Prepare T-chart based on the design features students have found.
* Review this list as a group, and add any features that have not yet been identified.
* Identify these design features on the enlarged comic as a class.

Explain that the class will learn about how each of these work to tell stories individually.