

How to Read a Graphic Novel

Some Graphic Novel Basics

- Graphic novels use text and pictures to present information
- Graphic novels use the same format as comic books
- Graphic novels differ from comics in that they usually contain stand-alone stories with complex plots

Parts of a Graphic Novel

A graphic novel consists of:

cover

and

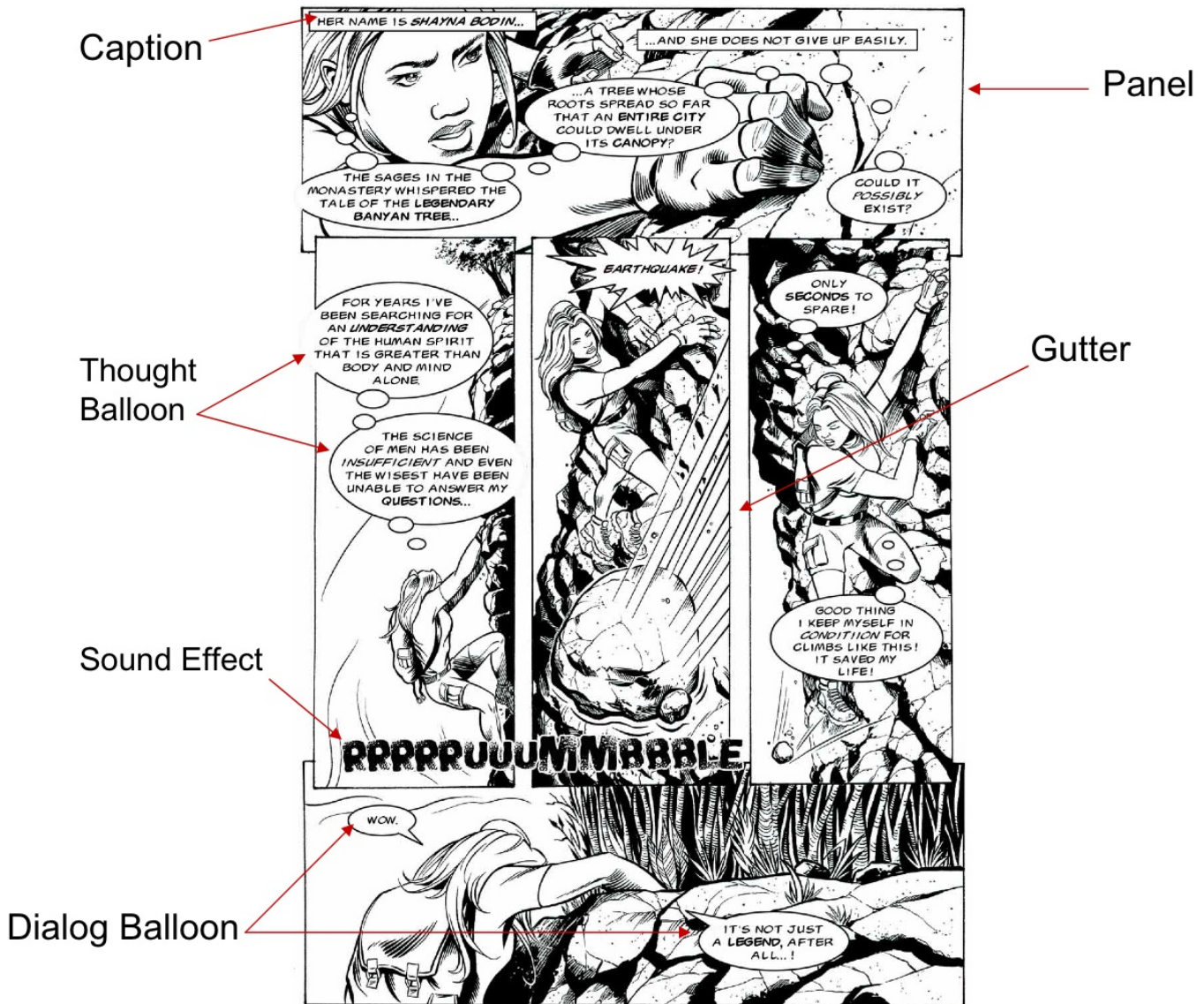
inside pages



A Graphic Novel Page

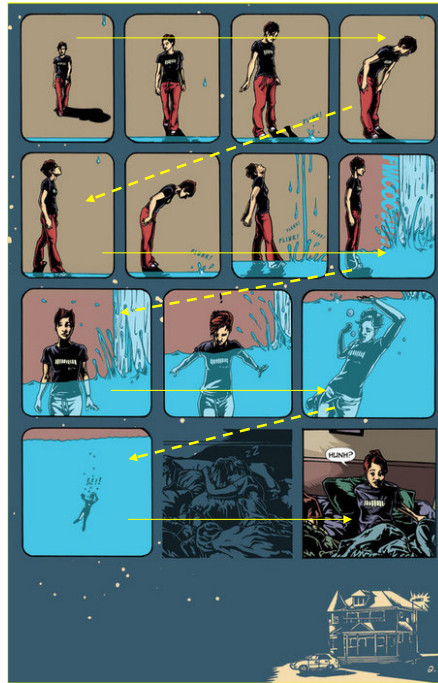
Pages consist of a variety of elements:

- **Panels** - squares or rectangles that contain a single scene
- **Gutters** - space between panels
- **Dialog Balloons** - contain communication between/among characters
- **Thought Balloons** - contain a character's thoughts
- **Captions** - contain information about a scene or character
- **Sound Effects** - visual sound clues i.e.. Wonk! Pow!



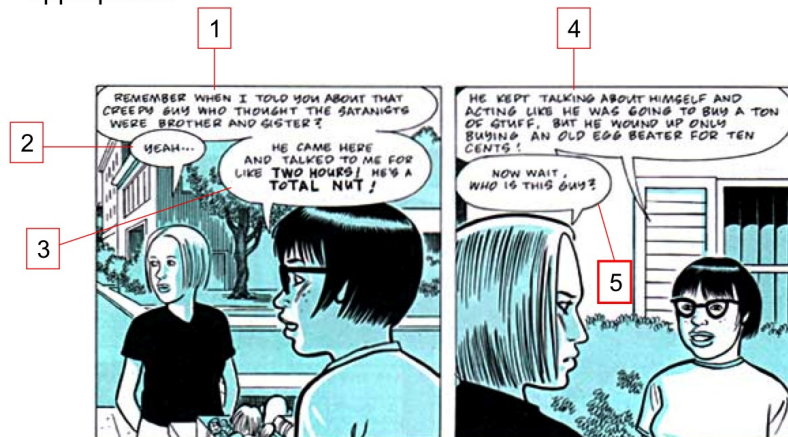
How to Read a Graphic Novel Page

Graphic novels are read left to right, just like traditional texts



Dialog Balloons

dialog balloons are read left to right or top to bottom as is appropriate.



Source: getgraphic.org
(Check out their site for more information on reading graphic novels)

