

VISUAL STORYTELLING TIPS

In this case you are asked to create a work of fiction in the form of visual storytelling.

WHAT IS FICTION?

Written fiction can include:

- Fables, myths and legends
- Short stories
- Novels
- Scripts for film, radio, television or stage.



All types of fiction share a common feature: their narrative tells a story that can entertain us, make us think about issues or ideas, or shares life experiences.

WHAT IS VISUAL STORYTELLING?

Visual storytelling is a story presented in a written form rather than a written or aural form. Forms of visual storytelling include:

- Film
- Animation
- Comic strip
- Graphic novel

FEATURES OF FICTION

Plot - The plot is the main storyline of a story. It includes key events.

Structure - Fiction narratives often follow a structure where the sequence of events can be broken down into three main parts:

1. *Orientation* - Who, When, Where. Introduce the characters, setting and events.
2. *Complication* - In the middle of a fictional narrative readers are introduced to conflicts, interactions and events that lead up to the climax. The climax is where the conflicts and events build up to a point of suspense or importance. At this point a key event will take place that relieves the tension, focuses the action or explains everything that has gone on up to this point. Descriptive words are used to give information about characters and events.

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3. *Resolution* - Deals with the consequences that follow the climax.

Theme - The theme is the main issue or idea. It is the principal message the author wants to convey to the reader.

Characters - Characters may be human, animal or imaginary. Major characters are central to the action while minor characters support the plot and setting but have little role in main events. The personality traits of characters are important to narratives. Multi-dimensional characters reflect the complex personalities of real life. A well-rounded character will be believable and well-developed: a one-dimensional character will be less believable.

Techniques to describe characters may include:

- Descriptions of physical appearance
- Speech characteristics
- Word choice
- Descriptions of how they act and treat other people
- Dialogue to show what other characters say about them.

Setting - The setting is where and when events take place. The type of setting will influence the readers'/audience's perceptions and expectations of events.

Language and style - Consider the following points about language and style:

- How will you use descriptive language and other stylistic devices to create pictures in your audience's imagination?
- How is dialogue used and for what purpose?
- Will you use imaginative or figurative language? How will this affect your story?
- What form or narration will you use: first person or third person?
- What types of sentence construction will you use and what effect will they have?