

English III

American Literature

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Graphic Novels

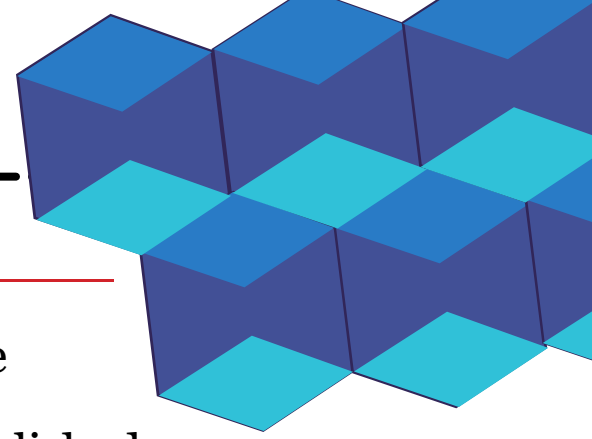
What are Graphic Novels?

- Growing component of **publishing industry**
- Books written and illustrated in the style of a **comic book**
- Any book in comic format that resembles a novel in length and **narrative development**
- Considered a **subgenre** of comics
- Similar to a **picture book** or a **storyboard**
- The comic book format has been utilized throughout history for thousand of centuries, from cave drawings to Ancient Egyptians, to the 1066 Norman Conquest of England, to scrolls from the Aztec and Mayan cultures in Central and South America
 - > see pages 9-20 of *Understanding Comics*

Graphic Novels

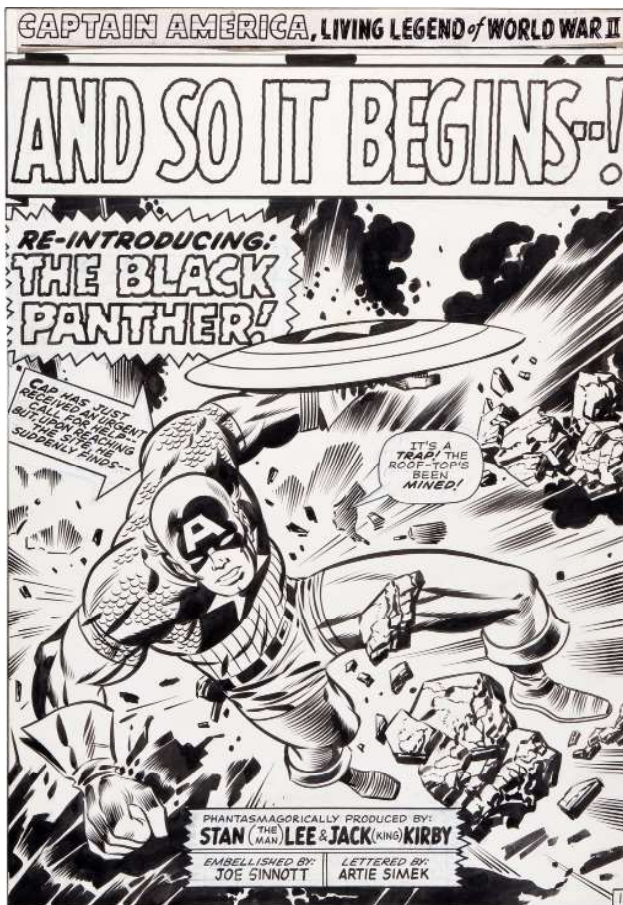
Terms for Comic Book/Graphic Novel Production

- **Script**: written directions for the finalized book, with dialogue
- **Pages**: individual sections of the narrative organizing an established linear pattern (remember the various story telling techniques for prose narration)
- **Panels**: rectangles, squares, even circles detailing action of script
- **Word balloons**: establish where characters speak
- **Thought balloons**: establish thoughts, *unspoken* dialogue of characters
- **Open panels**: exist without established borders

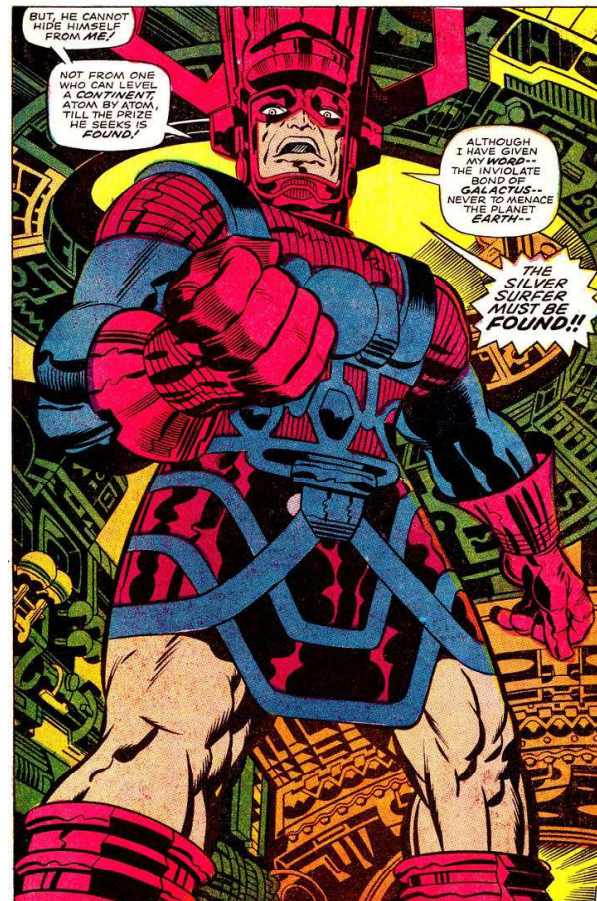


Graphic Novels

- **Splash page**: technique often used for opening cover pages; the entire page exists as one panel while supplying important narrative progression; can exist as a **double page spread**



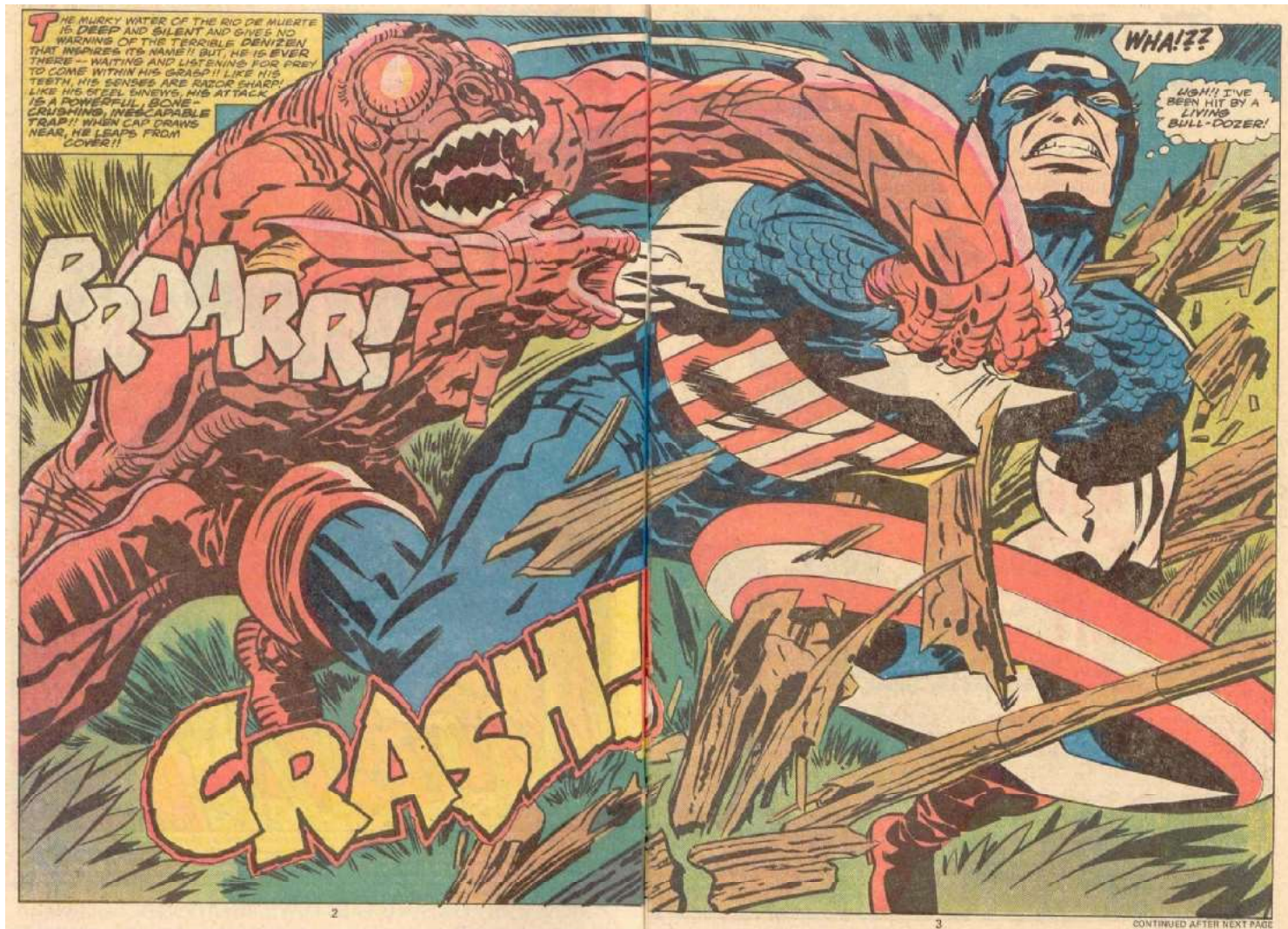
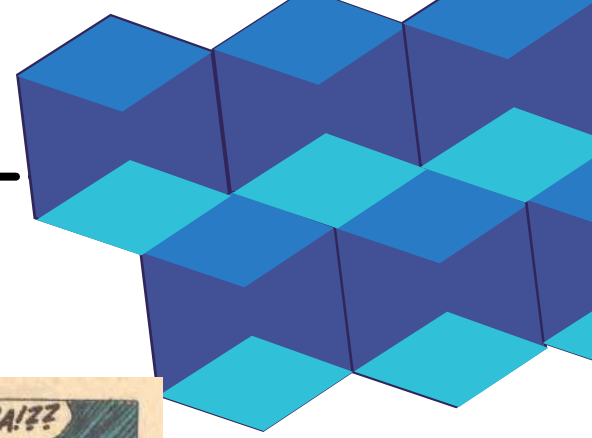
Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



For full effect, see:

<https://comics.ha.com/itm/original-comic-art/splash-pages/jack-kirby-and-joe-sinnot-ales-of-suspense-97-captain-america-splash-page-1-original-art-marvel-1968-/a/7063-92187.s>

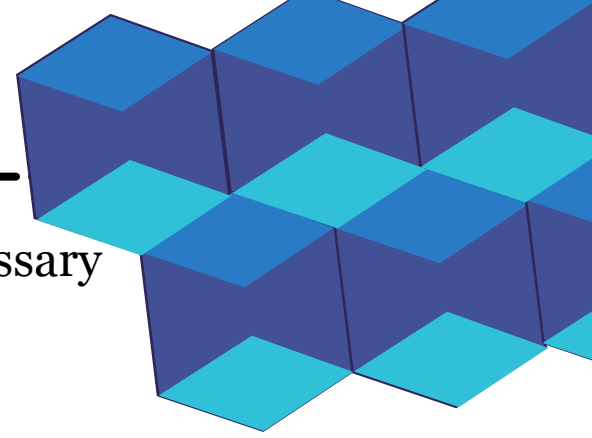
Graphic Novels



double page spread

Graphic Novels

- **Narratory blocks:** additional smaller squares presenting necessary narration; they can use any various narration types



Graphic Novels

Roles in Comic Book/Graphic Novel Production

- **Writer:** author of the script for comic book story
- **Artist:** creator of images which follow the agreed script, in pencils
- **Inker:** artist who inks in the penciled details *← the Jack Kirby of the production*
- **Colorist:** person who adds color to the inker's and artist's works
- **Letterer:** person who puts typographical emphasis headings and sound effects
- **Editor:** person who proofs stories for errors and aids creative team with cohesion and continuity between issues
- **Editor-in-Chief:** person who takes on the responsibility of managing the whole team > *the Stan Lee of the operation*

Graphic Novels

Combinations of Elements Within Graphic Novels

- **Novels:** communicate story through a planned strategy of linear narratives
- **Picture books** provide story of illustrations and graphics, with limited emphasis on text
- **Films/plays:** utilize moving image and intricate dialogues to communicate character transformation
- **Poetry:** places emphasis on musical elements to convey a story, with or without rhyme

