Glossary of Terms

Graphic novel/comic: Terms and concepts

Panel: A segment of the comic which contains a combination of image and text.

Frame: The lines and borders around the panels.

Gutter: The space between the framed panels.

Captions: These are boxes containing a variety of text elements such as place, time and narrative direction.

Speech balloons: These enclose the speaker’s dialogue. They usually contain direct speech but can also be thought balloons – indicated by series of bubbles leading to the thought.

Special effects lettering: This is done in special colours and can appear in or between frames. It often indicates onomatopoeia and is followed by exclamation marks.