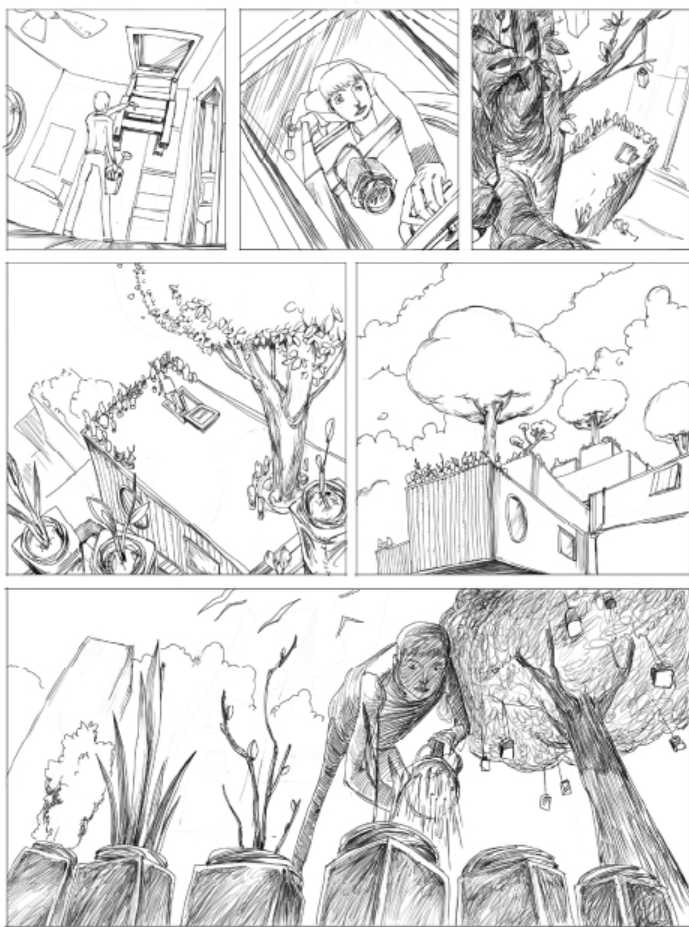


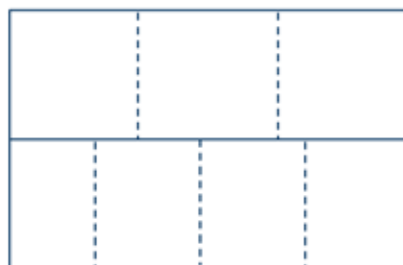
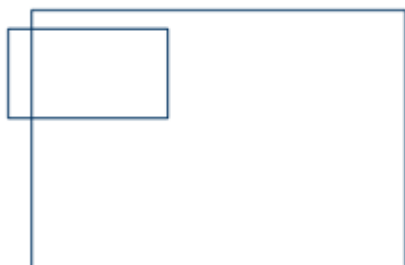
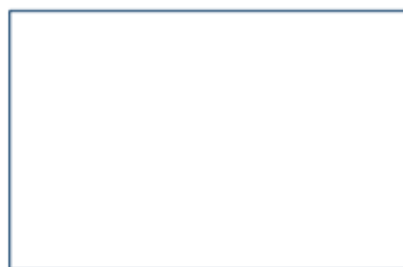
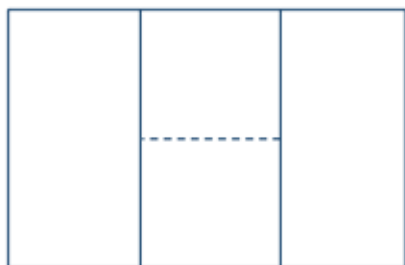
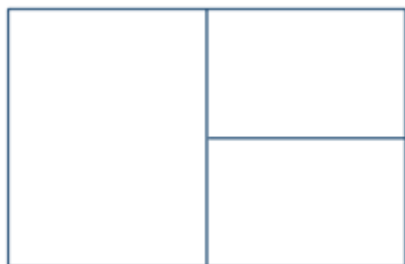
Layouts & Pencils



Story and Art by Edison Yan
Excerpt from *Exploded View* Anthology

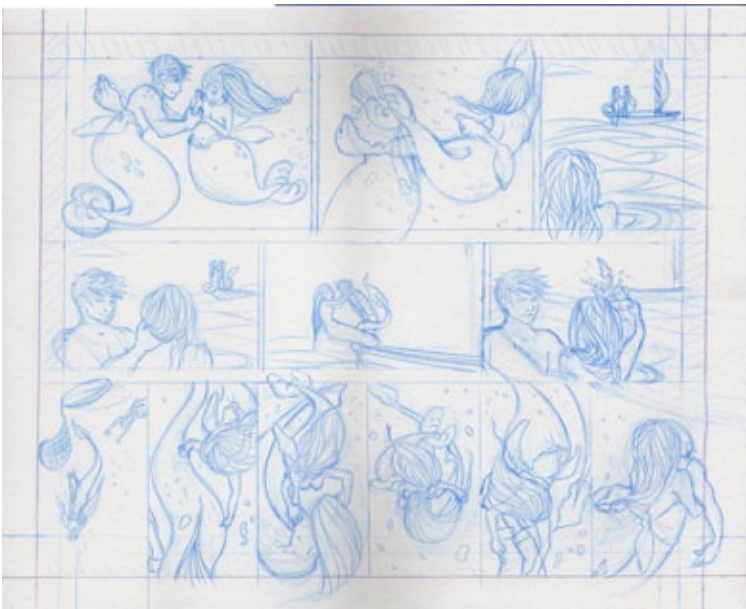
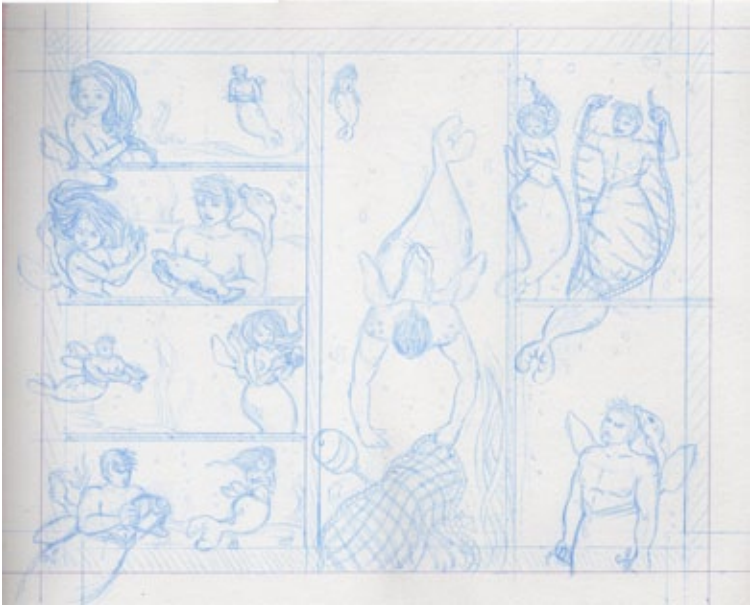
Types of Layouts

Here are eight basic panel layouts that can be used to break-up a page to tell a story. They can appear in whatever shape and style best meets the artist and story demands and establishes location and mood.



Spacing and Number of Panels

Border thickness can tell how quickly an action happens and help the reader navigate through the panels. Careful, too many panels on a page can confuse the reader.



Story and Art by Christine Eberle
Excerpt from *Waterlogged* Anthology

Layout Your Pages

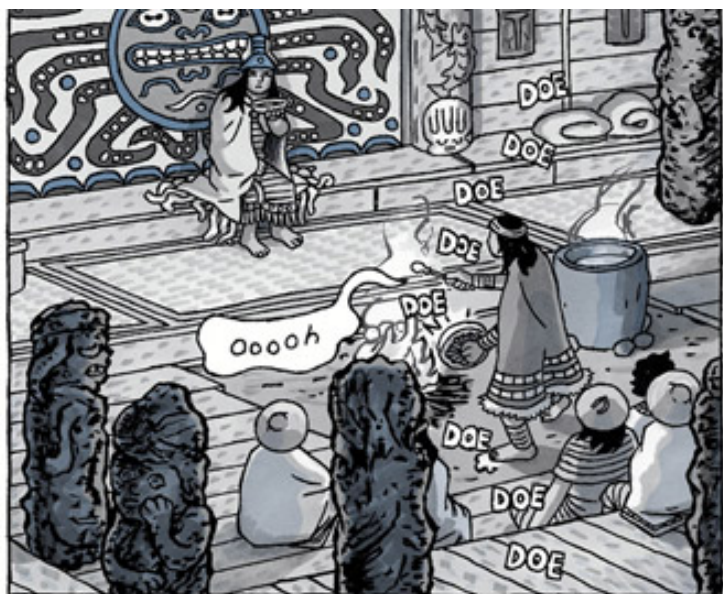
Before you start to draw your pages, it is always good to do a rough drawing of the comic you want to make. This helps you pick out how many panels fit comfortably on a page, if the story reads well, and where you want the dialogue to go. Is there enough space for the reader to pause? Does the reader know who is speaking? Can the reader tell the pace and mood of the characters? These are all questions you can ask to help make the comic page clear and engaging for people to read.



Story and Art by Jonothan Dalton
Excerpt from *Waterlogged* Anthology

Using Text to Direct the Reader

Dialogue in a story can be used to create flow from one panel into the next. In this page, the beat of a drum leads the reader into the next panel while the scene is established.



Story and Art by Jonothan Dalton
Excerpt from *Waterlogged* Anthology

Have Fun with Layouts

The panel border is one continuous line that separates each panel and connecting from one page to the next. In the end, you can string up the pages and see the line start to finish.



Story and Art by Oliver McTavish-Wisden
Excerpt from *Concept* online comic

Layout for Emotion

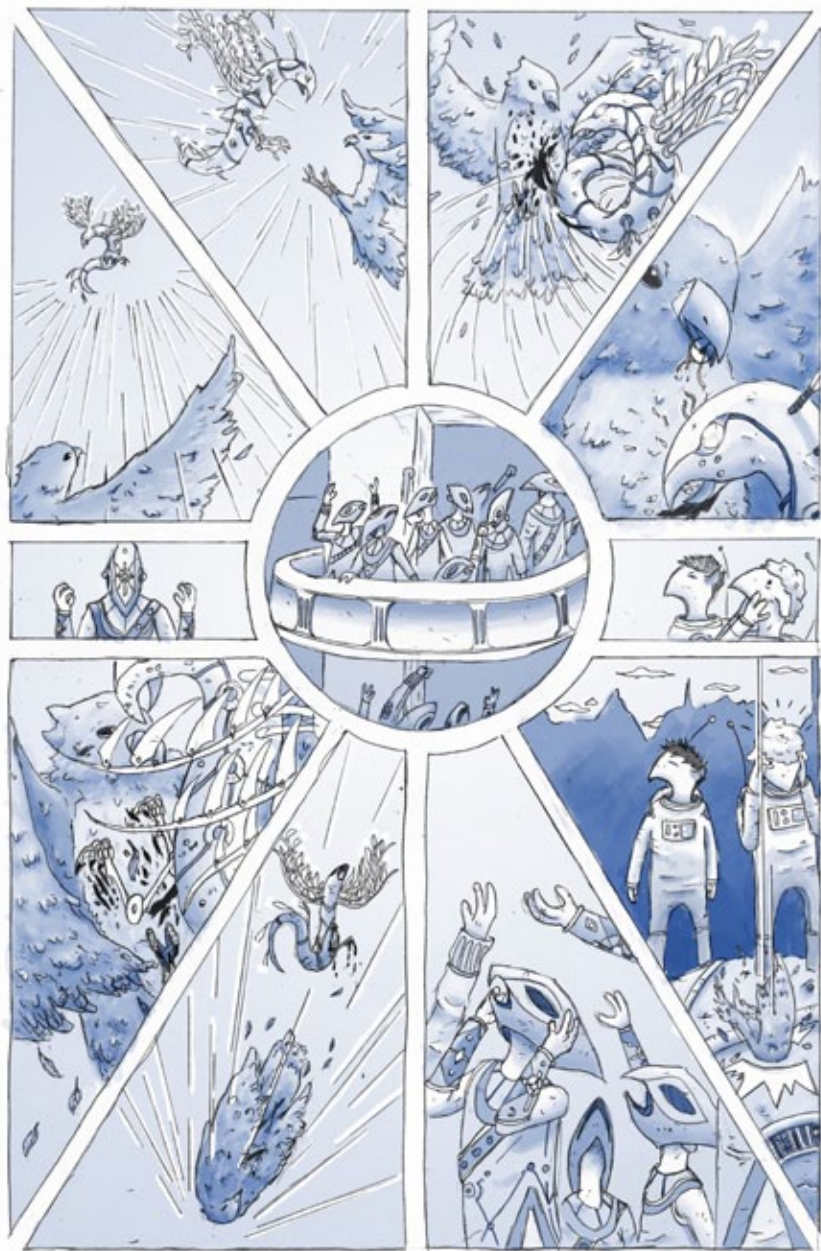
Use the layout of your page to set up the mood you want your reader to have. Make sure that your characters can show their expression or reaction to what is happening in the story.



Story by Aliena Shoemaker. Art by Chloe Chan
Excerpt from *Exploded View* Anthology

Experiment

Panel layout tells the story just as much as your drawings do, try new things and make the story more interesting to the reader.



Story and Art by Oliver McTavish-Wisden
Excerpt from *Waterlogged* Anthology

Panel Division

Panels can take a variety of forms, such as: defined lines, circles, squares, shapes of objects, and symbols. Panels don't have to be defined by lines; they can float freely within a page using the white space around to separate each scene.



Story and Art by Victoria Sticha
Excerpt from *21 Journeys Anthology*

Characters Outside of Panels

To create a sense of action or add emphasis, a character or object may appear above multiple panels within a page.



Story and Art By Edison Yan
Excerpt from *Exploded View* Anthology

Establishing Shot

There are many ways to establish a place or character. Here we have panels that overlap the main scene to show a mood or location; this helps the reader see where the action is happening.



Story and Art by Mara Coman
Excerpt from *Giants Of Main Street Anthology*



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