HOW SHOULD WE TEACH VISUAL NARRATIVE?



When teaching visual narrative, it's important to recognize that we are not simply dealing with an illustrated novel, or story that happens to contain pictures, but something different altogether. In short, we should ensure that we teach the following:

- The history of the genre and its roots in Eastern and Western culture, including the traditions in art that predate what we think of as "comics"
- The form and structure of the graphic novel and its relationship to the form and structure of other genres
- The vocabulary of visual media, specifically with respect to how visual media is constructed
- The nuances of the various terms that are used to define the genre: comic, graphic novel, sequential art, visual narrative, etc.
- How to analyze graphic novels and their recurrent literary features