Worksheet 4

King Arthur
Visual Literacy

Section A.

When we learn to read, teachers explain how print 'works'. We learn about full stops and capital letters and other things that make the words on the page make sense.

But when we read graphic novels or comics, we teach ourselves to understand much of what we are seeing. By reading graphic novels and comics we come to understand that:

Time passes from one frame to the next. Sometimes there are only a few seconds between the events of one frame and the next at other times it may be days or weeks.
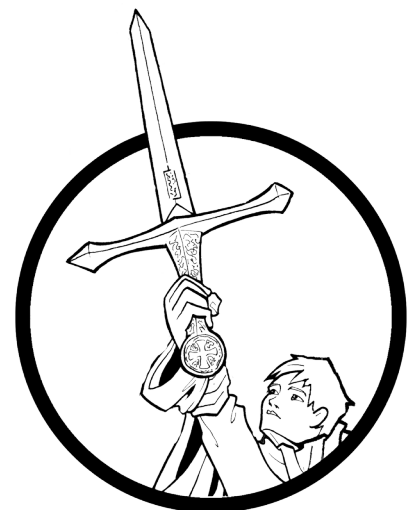
Sometimes we are seeing things from a distance and sometimes we see things 'close up'. This is similar to camera work in films.

Sometimes a graphic novel shows us a scene that only one of the characters in the story is seeing.

The size of the frames containing the action can vary. A large frame can indicate a very important scene

AND

Sometimes the graphic artist uses tricks to make us 'focus' on what is important in a frame. Look at the frame where young Arthur has taken the sword and is on his way to his master. We focus on him because he is in the centre of the frame and all the knights are looking at him. Many lines in that frame lead to Arthur. See how many you can find.

Section B

Re-read the story looking for some of the points listed above. Then complete Section C.

Section C

i.   Describe a part of the story where there are only a few seconds between one frame and the next.

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ii. Find two frames where years have passed between one frame and the next.

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iii. Look at a number of frames where the artist has used a 'long shot' to show the scene. Which do you think is the most effective? Why do you think this?

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iv. Of all the 'close ups' used, which do you think is the most dramatic? Why?

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iv. Look at all the large frames that have been used. Why do you think the artist made the frame that shows Sir Mordred and his rebels the biggest of all?

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vi. Look at the frame when the final battle is over. How has the artist made us focus on Sir Lancelot?

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