



Short Activity
Ages 9–12
20–30 minutes

Get Graphic! Create a Comic

Description

Participants will design their own comic strip using a comic book-style template

Number of participants

For any number of participants

Space considerations

Any space where participants can be seated to colour, write and cut comfortably

Competencies

- Design and planning
- Storytelling and creating characters
- Writing and literacy skills

Materials

- Comic book template
- Image template
- Pencils, crayons, coloured pencils
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Glue

Preparation

- Print comic book templates according to number of participants. Print additional pages to account for mistakes or participants who may want to extend the activity.
- Prepare a small display of graphic books from your collection, using the Recommended Reads as a guide.

- Print and assemble one or more story dice for story ideas. These feature sticker images, so if you're unable to print in colour, you can stick on extra stickers to create your own coloured version.

Implementation

- Explain to participants that the activity will consist of generating story ideas and ultimately creating a short comic based on anything they choose.
- Before the activity, encourage participants to browse some graphic books from the book display or read the web comic from 2026 web comic creator Salini Perera.
- Have them look over the style of the content:
 - What is the layout like?
 - Is there a lot of text? Or is it more image-based?
 - How many characters can you identify?
 - What sorts of settings do you notice?
- Offer some guidelines for how participants can get started with their own simple comic strip.
 - Choose one or two characters: e.g., a kid and her dog
 - Choose a setting: e.g., a poolside lounge
 - Create a problem or conflict: e.g., the dog has stolen an unattended plate of chicken wings
 - Offer a resolution (or not!): e.g., the kid runs after the dog...only to find the dog saved a few wings for her.
- Participants can also use online story idea or plot generators to help them get started, such as <https://writingexercises.co.uk/plotgenerator.php>
- Have participants consider using the story dice template, inspired by 2026 artist Andrew Kolb, for ideas for characters and stories as well.
- Encourage creativity and "happy mistakes" along the way!

Accessibility considerations

- Offer glue sticks or craft sticks with small containers of liquid glue for pasting images.
- Create a larger graphic space: for example, each panel can be an entire 8.5" x 11" page.
- Encourage collaborative graphic creations with each participant creating a page/panel.
- Scale up images and print various sizes.
- Offer textured paper, stickers, washi tape, puffy paint, etc. if possible.

Book suggestions

Atana and the Firebird by Vivian Zhou

Barnacle Bay by Jana Curl

The Fact-Finders: Ocean by Tracey Turner and Gillian Reid

Puffin and Penguin by Helaine Becker and Kevin Sylvester

Hex Vets: The River Guardian by Sam Davies and Lisa Moore

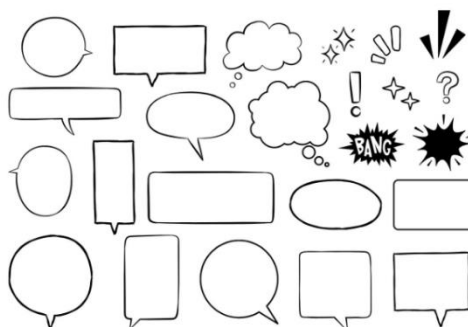
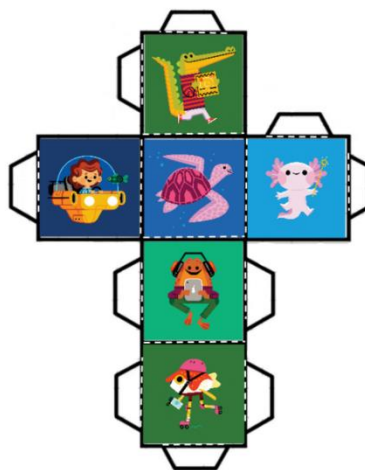
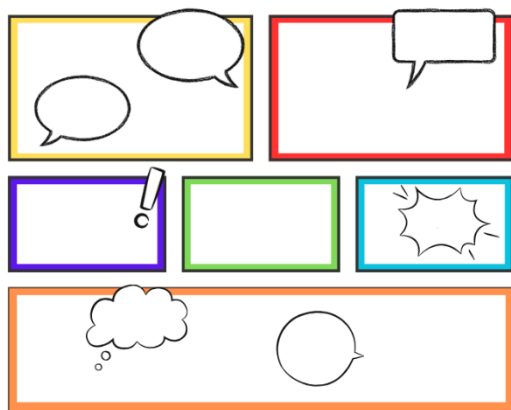
Order of the Night Jay #2: The River Rises by Jonathan Schnapp

Stories of the Islands by Clar Angkasa

Download links

- [Get Graphic – Activity PDF](#)
- [Get Graphic – Comic Templates](#)
- [Get Graphic – Story Dice](#)

Images



Cut along the solid outer edge of the template, ensuring all tabs are kept intact

Fold in along dotted lines

Secure folded tabs with glue or tape

Roll your die and see which character will inspire your next story or comic strip!

