

# COMIC TRAGICS The exploding language of contemporary comic art

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## Gallery Education Sheet – Secondary school

Use this worksheet to explore the exhibition and to look more closely at some of the works.

### **Dash Shaw: Blind date**

1. Watch the video *Blind date* made by Dash Shaw. What is the tone of the work?

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2. What processes has the artist used to create this video?

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3. Is Shaw making a comment about contemporary society?

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### **John Porcellino: *Not my small diary***

1. Read the comic *Not my small diary*.
2. The story hangs together despite each panel showing a different scene from the previous and the one following. What strategies does the artist use to assist you to follow the story from panel to panel?

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3. Examine the first four panels. How does the artist signify that time passes?

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### **Compare and contrast the work of John Porcellino and Ron Regé Jr.**

Discuss each artist's drawing style and technique. What is similar and what is different?

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Write a brief summary outlining the themes Porcellino and Regé Jr deal with in their work. To what extent do you think each artist is successful in conveying ideas? (Consider style, technique, and textual and visual elements).

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**Find Gabrielle Bell's collection of works entitled *One page comics***

1. Are these comics resolved or are they drafts? Give reasons for your answer.

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2. How does the artist use the design elements line, tone and space to convey meaning?

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3. Why do you think she chooses to work mainly in black marker?

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**Look at the works of Emma Talbot.**

1. What medium does she mainly work in?

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2. Look at the patterns and designs the artist has used to frame the panels in many of her images. Do they remind you of other art styles or cultures?

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3. Are Talbot's works paintings or comics? Can they be both?

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**Find Anders Nilsen's *Captain America resting***

Comment on the irony and humour in this image. Why did the artist choose to draw this particular superhero and why is the superhero presented like this?

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**Look at Stephen Collins' collection of drawings that make up the story *The gigantic beard that was evil 2014*.**

1. Collins has used very little text, telling the story mainly with images. Try writing a summary of the story using only words.

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2. How does the artist use different angles to help us interpret the characters and to evoke a mood?

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**In the series of cartoons *Pigeons of New York*, how does Collins use metaphor to represent more universal human themes?**

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**Much of the work in *Comic Tragic*s is autobiographical. Choose a work that appeals to you and write about its autobiographical elements and what visual and textual strategies the artist uses to convey ideas about self.**

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