

Dare to know

Humorous Comics

Comics intended to provoke laughter and provide amusement.

A genre in which stories seek to amuse the reader, although this is a subjective goal depending on a reader's sense of humor and point of view. The primary focus is to provoke surprise and laughter by subverting what is common. This sense of inconsistency is at the core of comedy. Humorous comics may exaggerate the unexpected, the bizarre, or the ironic for amusing effect, often with subtlety and carefully crafted narratives. Authors and artists working in this genre can highlight the absurdities, strangeness, and hilarity of life while still exploring darker topics, and achieving complexity of theme and depth of character. Protagonists might find themselves in strange, unique, or distressing circumstances, but humor offers an insight into the characters' experiences. Thus, the reader may gain a deeper understanding of how the characters are affected.

Satire calls attention to human or societal failings, then ridicules them through the use of parody, burlesque, irony, or exaggerations and caricatures. Satire succeeds when it creates controversy. Often, the target to be criticized is a specific person or institution. Other times, the creator(s) may wish to persuade the audience to adopt a particular point of view. Satire may occur directly in which readers are directly addressed or indirectly in which readers are left to draw their own conclusions. Richard F. Outcault's *Hogan's Alley* (1895-1898), Rudolph Dirks and Harold Knerr's *The Katzenjammer Kids* (1897-2006), James "Jimmy" Swinnerton's *Little Jimmy* (1904-1927), Bud Fisher's *Mutt and Jeff* (1907-1983), Elzie Crisler Segar's *Popeye* (1929-ongoing), Chic Young and Dean Young's *Blondie* (1930-ongoing), Clarence D. Russell's *Pete the Tramp* (1932-1963), St. John Publications' *Abbott and Costello Comics* (1948-1956), Mort Walker's *Beetle Bailey* (1950-ongoing), Harvey Kurtzman and William Gaines' *MAD* (1952-2018), and EC Comics' *Panic* (1954-1956) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Wit
Absurdity
Slapstick comedy
Satire

Farce
Parody
Spoofs

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>2024: A Graphic Novel</i> (2001) by Ted Rall	<i>Familiar Face</i> (2020) by Michael DeForge
<i>Akissi: Tales of Mischief</i> (2018) by Marguerite Abouet	<i>Ghost World</i> (1997) by Daniel Clowes
<i>The Best of the Wizard of Id</i> (2009) by Johnny Hart and Brant Parker	<i>Giant Days Volume 1</i> (2015) by John Allison and Lissa Treiman
<i>The Complete Neat Stuff</i> (2016) by Peter Bagge	<i>Hazed</i> (2008) by Mark Sable and Robbi Rodriguez
<i>The Complete Tales from the Con</i> (2017) by Brad Gulgar, Chris Giarrusso, and Scoot McMahon	<i>Invisible Emmie</i> (2017) by Terri Libenson
<i>Curse Words Volume 1</i> (2017) by Charles Soule and Ryan Browne	<i>Shirtless Bear-Fighter</i> (2017) by Jody Leheup
	<i>Strange Planets</i> (2019) by Nathan W. Pyle