Storytelling, Folktales and the Comic Book Format

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Abstract
The reading process in comics is an extension of text. In text alone the process of reading involves word-to-image conversion. Comics accelerate that by providing the image. When properly executed, it goes beyond conversion and speed and becomes a seamless whole. In every sense, this misnamed form of reading is entitled to be regarded as literature because the images are employed as a language. There is a recognizable relationship to the iconography and pictographs of oriental writing. When this language is employed as a conveyance of ideas and information, it separates itself from mindless visual entertainment. This makes comics a storytelling medium.

Comments
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Storytelling is common to every culture. Most people enjoy listening to stories. Storytellers have catered for the need for a 'good story' since the beginning of civilization. Most people have their own favourite story from childhood and, often, these tales are both fascinating and frightening. These stories include legends, myths and folktales. What are legends? A legend is a semi-true story, which has been passed on from person-to-person and has important meaning or symbolism for the culture in which it originates. A legend usually includes an element of truth, or is based on histo Catalog, and the ground-breaking best-selling children's literature text-book, Chillrm and Books authored by May Hill Arbuthnot in 1947 and subsequently
revised by Zena Sutherland from 1972 onward. This discussion focuses on the folktale chapter in Children and Books (henceforth referred to as CAB) over the course of nine editions from 1947 to 1997 (copyright years on the nine editions are 1947, 1957, 1964, 1972, 1977, 1981). This is followed by a close look at the folktale and storytelling chapters in the first edition, tracing changes made in relevant sections through subsequent editions, with commentary about language, race, and gender issues. For the purposes of this article, CAB'S Chapter titles are in bold italic.