

## COMICS: A VISUAL APPROACH TO LEARNING MATHEMATICS

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Pandemic made a huge impact in everyone's lives. Distance learning became a necessity and the efforts of the Department of Education for making education continuity a reality was very evident. Today, we may say that we somewhat "survived" the CoViD outbreak, different scenarios (such as typhoon, high heat index, localized events or special "student cases") that call for distance learning are still obvious. From printed modules, to TV programs, video lessons, radio-based instructions to name a few. Still, continuous searches for methods on how to make distance learning more effective are still in progress. One of which that emerged is the use of comic strips.

A comic strip is defined as a group of cartoons in narrative sequence (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Comic strips first appeared in newspapers in the late 19th century (Public Libraries Singapore) which main purpose was to entertain. From superhero genre like Marvels, to Japanese manga and to our local version of Pinoy Komiks, there is no doubt that comics played a significant role in the lives of many of us. Not to mention the nostalgia we feel whenever we see those comic strips that we bought or rented from the money we saved from our "baon". Nowadays, these are in the forms of online "manga" which are, in some instances became inspirations of some movies or series.

Comics do not only stimulate students' interest but promotes practice reading. Unlike in video lessons in which the students watch and listen only, comics require them to read the conversations, thus practices their reading comprehension. Several studies were conducted as to examine the effects of comics to education. Few of them focuses on how comics improve reading comprehension among learners. Golding (2021), set out a

study as to determine if a visual literacy intervention constructed around comics would improve comprehension of educational comics in primary school children. Mendez and Castañeda (2018) used comics to reinforce reading comprehension among tenth year students. On the other hand, Senen et.al (2021) mentioned how comics has a significant positive effect on reading interest and student learning outcomes. There is no doubt that comprehension is vital in the teaching-learning process and it may vary with every learner. It is important not only to appreciate history, Science trivias and different literatures but also how to solve a Mathematics problem. The way they comprehend a lesson or a question will have a huge impact on communication and in the long term, on their life outcomes. And this is where the role of comics enters.

With the emergence of technology, printed comics might be rarely seen but it doesn't mean that its legacy died but rather evolved into an a virtual one. Especially in the current situation, people including our learners spend most of their time online. Thus making comics another option as to enhance learning.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

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