

Comics

An analysis



Brief History

- Merriam Webster defines a comic as

“A series of drawings intended for humor or satire drawn in a narrative sequence”

- The first recorded instance of a narrative told through *sequential pictures* was the Trajan’s Column in 110 AD



The caricatures on the Trajan’s column, which commemorates Emperor Trajan’s victory in the battle of Dacan

- Increased in popularity when they could get to the reader, after the invention of modern printing techniques
- Humor periodicals gained popularity in Britain in the 19th century and the first serialized comic strip was published in 1884
- Most superhero comics started printing in the first half of the 20th century, with Marvel Comics #1 being published in 1939

Components of Comics

Panels

Text

Artstyle

Panels

- Individual elements containing some part of the action and are surrounded by a border
- Prime moments in the narrative are broken down
- 'Pieces' are put together by the reader using background knowledge and an understanding of panel relations to combine panels mentally into events
- The size, shape and arrangement of panels each affect the timing and pacing of the narrative.

Text

- Frequently incorporated into comics via speech balloons, captions and sound effects.
- Speech balloons indicate dialogue (or thought, in the case of thought balloons)
- Speech balloons themselves are strongly associated with comics, such that the addition of one to an image is sufficient to turn the image into comics
- Captions can give voice to a narrator, convey characters' dialogue or thoughts, or indicate place or time
- Sound effects mimic non vocal sounds using onomatopoeia.

Artstyle

- It is the first thing noticed in a comic strip
- The artstyle portrays the origin and culture of the comic in some way or other

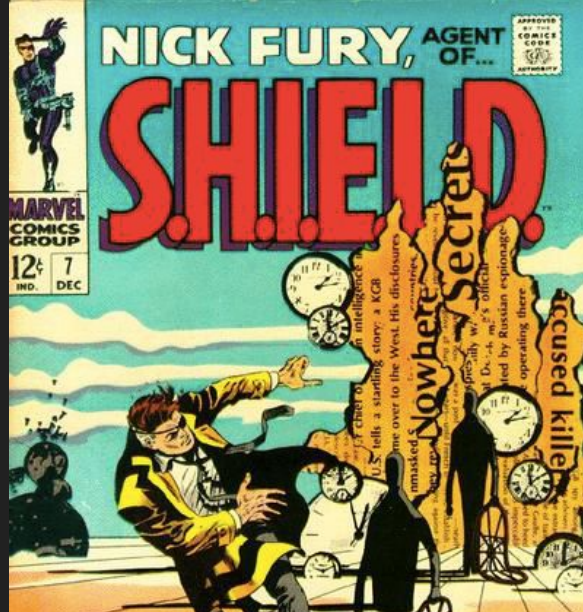
Golden Age (1938 - 1950)

Silver Age (1950 - 1971)

Bronze Age (1971 - 1980)

Dark Age (1980 - 1993)

Ageless Age (1993 - Present)



about calvin and hobbes



calvin and hobbes

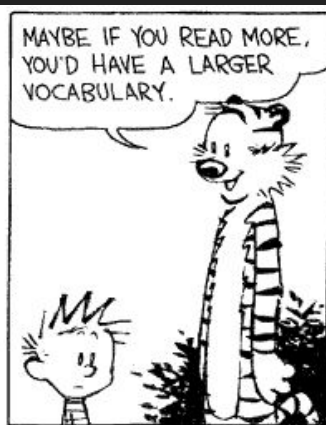
by WATKINS



EITHER HE'S PLAYING
CLASSICAL MUSIC AT
78 RPM, OR I'M
STILL DREAMING.

FIRST THING
TOMORROW MORNING,
I'M CALLING THE
ORPHANAGE.





Introduction

- 'Calvin and Hobbes' is a daily comic strip by American cartoonist *Bill Watterson*
- Commonly called the 'Last Great Newspaper Comic'
- Enjoyed broad and enduring popularity, influence and academic interest
- At the height of its popularity, it was featured in over 2,400 newspapers worldwide
- In 2010, reruns of the strip were published in 50 countries and 45 million copies of the book were sold.



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I RIGGED A TUNA FISH SANDWICH YESTERDAY, SO I'M SURE TO HAVE A TIGER BY NOW!

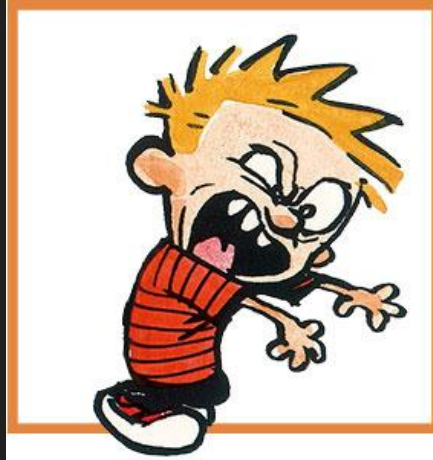


WILSON



11-18

Characters



Calvin

Many of Calvin's struggles are metaphors for the author's struggles. The author uses Calvin as an outlet for his immaturity, as a way to keep himself curious about the natural world



Hobbes

He has the patient dignity and common sense of most animals. Hobbes is a good-natured, intelligent, friendly, and enthusiastic in a sneaking-up-and-pouncing sort of way



Calvin's parents

They weren't given names. Their personalities are made to mimic '*typical but slightly young*' parents. Both are seen mostly exasperated with Calvin's antics



Susie Derkins



Miss Wormhood



Moe

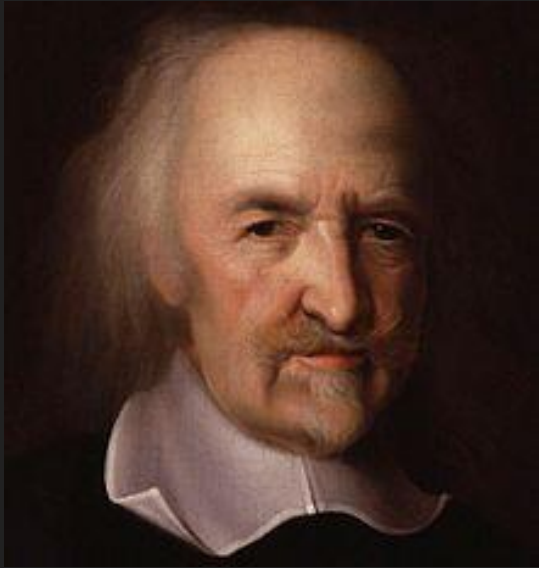


Rosalyn

Philosophy



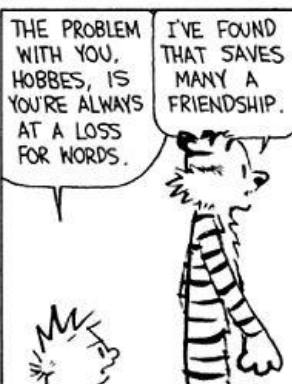
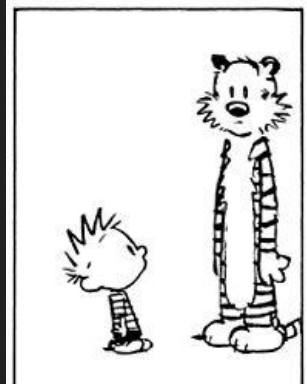
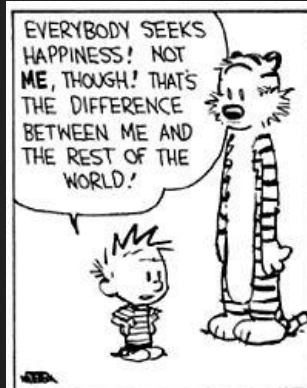
- John Calvin was an influential christian theologian during 1500 - 1550
- He believed that God had some influence on the events taking place on Earth
- John and Calvin wanted a lot on what God did on Earth



- Thomas Hobbes did most of his work during the mid 1600s
- One of the premier founders of *Materialism*

The belief that the only thing existing in this world are those that we can identify with our 5 senses

- Thomas (Hobbes) believed that humans worked together only to further their own personal interests ie. dog-eat-dog world
- It makes sense that Bill gave that attribute to the tiger



GOD PUT ME ON THIS EARTH TO ACCOMPLISH A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THINGS. RIGHT NOW I AM SO FAR BEHIND, I WILL NEVER DIE.



Speciality

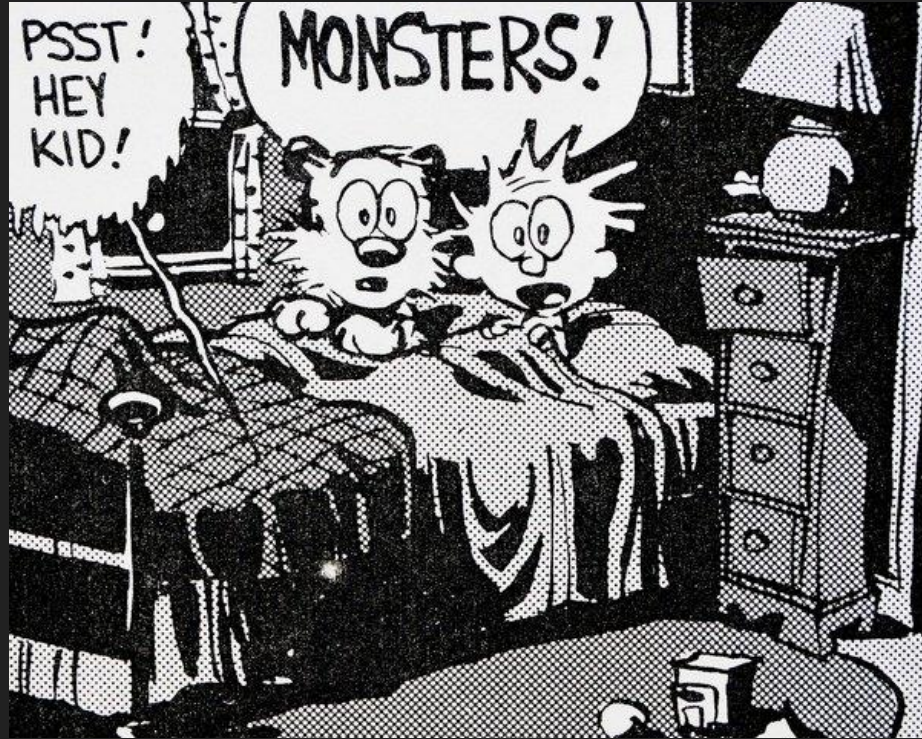
- Characters are endlessly expressive, with layers of subtlety rather than a few stock faces that get reused from week to week
- Unlike other poorly masked political commentary or social critique, Calvin and Hobbes manages to touch on complex subjects such as consumerism, existentialism, and environmentalism
- Extremely mundane situations are brought to life in a way few authors can narrate and few artists can illustrate
- Bill Watterson made the experience exclusive to the comics, unlike series such as *'Peanuts'* or *'Garfield'* which essentially sold out

Artstyle

- Drawings are quirky
- Defy our sense of proportion in consistently humorous ways
- Quoting Charles Schulz, creator of the *'Peanuts'* comics -

“Drawing in a comic strip is infinitely more important than we may think, for our medium must compete with other entertainments, and if a cartoonist does nothing more than illustrate a joke, he or she is going to lose”

These drawings do an excellent job in encapsulating the quirks, creativity and wonder of childhood



Notice the clear highlighting, automatically drawing your attention to where it needs to be



Screaming



Yawning

