



What makes a good Graphic Novel?

AAD011

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Structure & Narrative:

- Panels - Frames the illustrations and other information.
- Text/ Dialogue - Narrative Devices for the story's context.
- Background, Midground & Foreground.
- Genre - Comedy, romance, horror...
- Plot/ story lines must be strong and make sense to the audience.
- Room for the viewer's imagination too.



Fig 1. Melanie Gillman. "Other Ever Afters: New Queer Fairy Tales." Publisher: Random House Graphic. (2022.)

Illustrations:

- Modern novels are simple and to the point.
- Art Style - Most visually interesting. Helps us connect and see the author's fictional world.
- Unique to each novel/ author.
- Adds to the aesthetic of the novel/ environment.



Fig 2. Alice Oseman.
“Heartstopper.” Self-published. Print: Hachette Children's Group. (2019.)



Fig 3. Debbie Tung.
“Book Love.” Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing. (2019.)

Colour Palette:

- Colour Wheel.
- Different colours to stir a range of appropriate emotions in the viewer.
- Example: Warm colours - Inviting atmosphere, joyful...

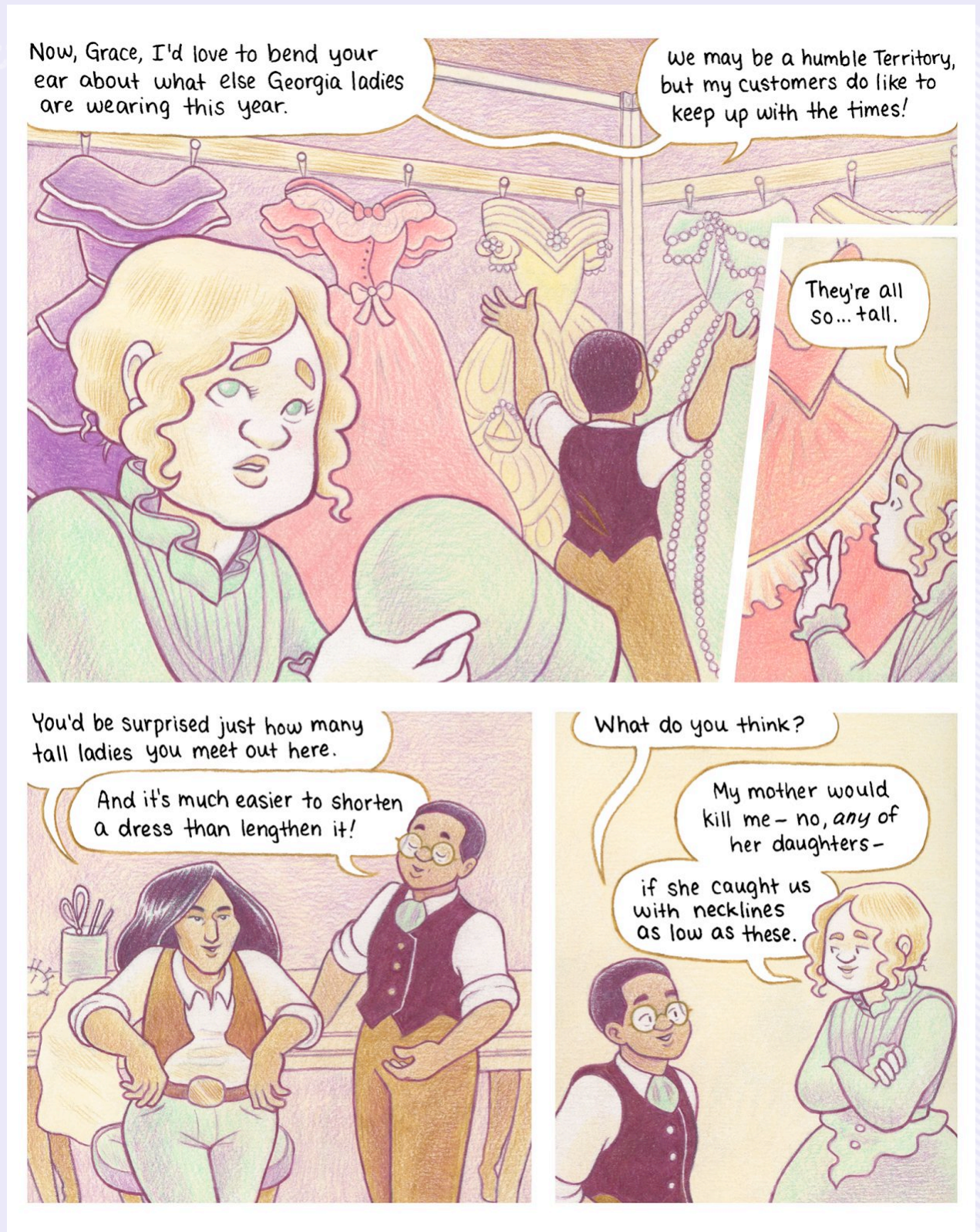
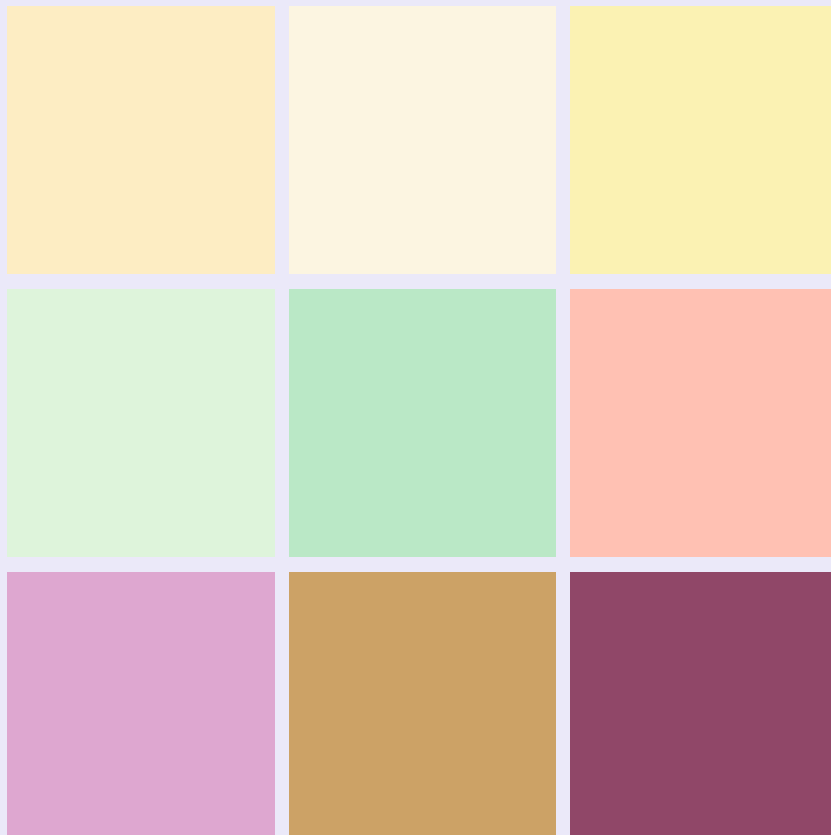


Fig 4. Melanie Gillman. "Stage Dreams."
Publisher: Lerner Publishing Group.
(2022.)

Characters:

- Facial expressions/features.
- Personalities.
- Choice of colour palettes.
- Relatable situations... Mental health, culture, thoughts & feelings...



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Sometimes the thoughts in my head



can get too overwhelming.



Fig 5, 6 & 7. Debbie Tung. "Everything is OK." Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing. (2022.)

Visual Devices:

- Prompts/ encourages the audience's emotions.
- Fills in empty space without seeming like too much information is on the page.



Fig 8. Alice Oseman.
“Heartstopper.” Self-published.
Print: Hachette Children's
Group. (2019.)

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<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2010/01/color-theory-for-designers-part-1-the-meaning-of-color/>

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<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Melanie+Gillman.+%E2%80%9COther+Ever+Afters%3A+New+Queer+Fairy+Tales.%E2%80%9D>

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Gillman, M. "Stage Dreams." Publisher: Lerner Publishing Group. (2022.) Fig 4:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Melanie+Gillman.+%E2%80%9CStage+Dreams.%E2%80%9D>

(Accessed: 10th April 2023.)

Tung, D. "Book Love." Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing. (2019.) Fig 3:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Debbie+Tung.+%E2%80%9CBook+Love.%E2%80%9D>

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Tung, D. "Everything is OK." Publisher: Andrews McMeel Publishing. (2022.) Fig 5, 6 & 7:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Debbie+Tung.+%E2%80%9CEverything+is+OK.%E2%80%9D>

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