

**3A Panel Script: More Than a Laugh**

CMN231- Communicating with Comics

Teodora Maric, 501314593

Dr. Catherine Jenkins

April 5, 2026

**Main Message:**

While comics may seem simple and funny at first, they can actually express real emotions, struggles, and deeper ideas, encouraging readers to rethink how they see them.

**The Story:**

The story follows Kyla, a student who believes comics are just entertainment. Through her class and what she reads, she starts to realize that comics can be emotional and meaningful. This story matters because it shows how something that seems simple can actually be powerful once we understand it differently.

The story takes place in Kyla's bedroom and her classroom. Her bedroom, with her desk, laptop, and comics, shows her personal thoughts and reactions. The classroom, with slides and lectures, introduces new ideas and helps shift her perspective. Together, these settings show her change from casual thinking to deeper understanding.

The conflict is internal. Kyla believes comics are simple and not serious, but this is challenged when she learns new ideas and reads different types of comics. The resolution happens when she changes her mindset and understands that comics can express real experiences, which she shows by starting to create her own comic.

The actions in the story include Kyla reading comics, reacting, learning in class, reflecting, and creating her own comic, shown through her facial expressions, thought bubbles, and what appears on her laptop.

The story unfolds over a short period of time, moving from before the course, to during class, and finally after her understanding, shown through captions and changes in her thinking.

**Characters:**

Kyla is the main character. At first, she is relaxed and laughing while reading a Garfield comic, not thinking deeply about it. As the story goes on, her expressions change, and she becomes more serious, thoughtful, and even emotional. By the end, she is calm and slightly smiling, showing she understands something new. She mostly interacts with what she reads and learns in class, and her reactions, such as smiling, thinking, and tearing up, show her growth.

The professor is shown through classroom slides and short statements. This voice introduces the idea that comics can have deeper meaning and challenges Kyla's original thinking, helping shift her perspective.

**Beginning, Middle, End:**

At the beginning, Kyla is in her room reading a Garfield comic and laughing, showing she thinks comics are just for fun. In class, the professor says comics can have deeper meaning, but she doesn't believe it.

In the middle, Kyla reads a more emotional comic and realizes it isn't meant to be funny. She starts to feel something real and learns that meaning comes from what we understand between panels, which shifts her perspective.

At the end, Kyla realizes she was wrong and understands that comics can show real struggles and emotions. She begins creating her own comic, showing her new understanding. The ending is calm, showing quiet growth.

**Title: More Than a Laugh**

PANEL 1:

PICTURE: Kyla's bedroom, desk, laptop with a Garfield comic, Kyla smiling

CAPTION: Before class...

THOUGHT: HAHA comics are just for laughs

PANEL 2:

PICTURE: Garfield comic

THOUGHT: Easy... simple... nothing serious

PANEL 3:

PICTURE: classroom, slide: Comics = Meaning

THOUGHT: PROFESSOR: Comics can express things people struggle to say out loud

PANEL 4:

PICTURE: Kyla skeptical, arms crossed

THOUGHT: It's just drawings... How deep can it be?

PANEL 5:

PICTURE: Kyla on laptop, screen with meaningful comic

CAPTION: Then I started reading something different...

PANEL 6:

PICTURE: close-up, emotional comic

THOUGHT: ...this isn't meant to be funny.

CAPTION: It didn't feel like a joke.

PANEL 7:

PICTURE: Kyla reacting

THOUGHT: This feels like what someone is actually going through.

PANEL 8:

PICTURE:(SPLIT PANEL; left and right or up and down) Left: Garfield / Right: emotional comic

CAPTION: Same format. Completely different impact!

PANEL 9:

PICTURE: classroom slide: McCloud

THOUGHT: PROFESSOR: meaning happens between panels...

PANEL 10:

PICTURE: Kyla writing notes

THOUGHT: it's not just what's shown... It's what we understand

PANEL 11:

PICTURE: Kyla crying/ tearing up

CAPTION: We fill in what isn't said.

PANEL 12:

PICTURE: Kyla thinking

THOUGHT: Comics don't just show stories... they make us feel them

PANEL 13:

PICTURE: laptop with different types of comics

CAPTION: They can tell any kind of story...

THOUGHT: real-world issues... struggles people hide... who we are...

PANEL 14:

PICTURE: laptop shutting off

CAPTION: I had it all wrong

PANEL 15:

PICTURE: Kyla drawing her own comic, only title written; Things people don't always say out loud.

CAPTION: They're a way to say things that are hard to explain.

PANEL 16:

PICTURE: Kyla, partially smiling, looking at her comic

CAPTION: Comics can make you laugh... but they can also make you understand.

Work cited

Brosh, A. (2013). *Hyperbole and a Half*. Simon & Schuster.

Davis, J. (2025, June 17). *Garfield - June 17, 2025*. Gocomics.com; Andrews McMeel

Universal. <https://www.gocomics.com/garfield/2025/06/17>

*Today on Garfield - Comics by Jim Davis - GoComics*. (2018). Gocomics.com.

<https://www.gocomics.com/garfield>