

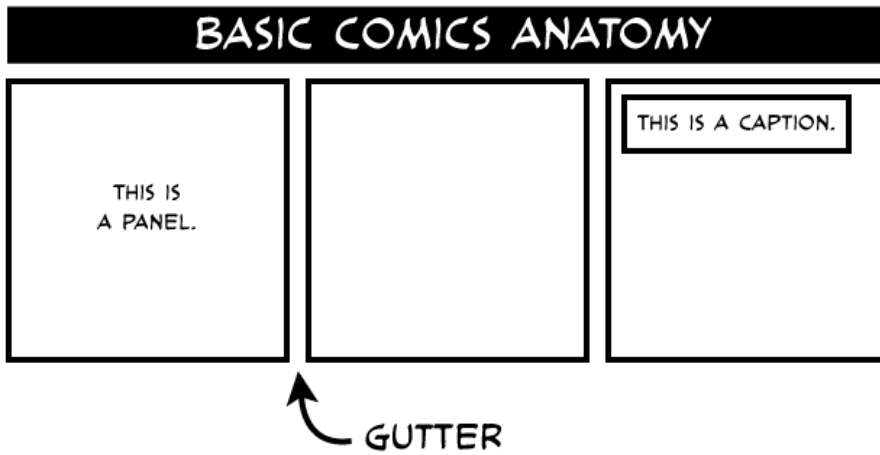


**STEPHEN  
JOSEPH  
THEATRE**  
SCARBOROUGH

# Graphic novels

If you don't like writing traditional stories why not try writing a graphic novel or creating a comic. It does not have to be original. You can adapt parts of a text you are studying at school, or a novel that you enjoy. Jane Austen's Emma or Harley Merlin could both be given the comic book treatment!

Graphic novels combine text and drawings in a comic-strip format to tell a story. Instead of just text, it uses lots of different elements:



**Panel:** A segment of action, often contained by a border.

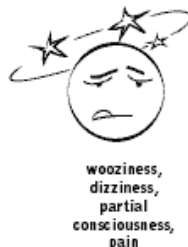
**Gutter:** The space between panels.

**Frame:** The lines that make a frame around the pictures

**Speech bubble:** Contains the dialogue that characters speak (or think).

**Captions:** Text that narrates the story, often in a rectangular box.

**Emanata:** Text or icons above a character that represent what's going on in their head.



## Layouts

There are some examples of layouts to get you started below but there are plenty more on the internet – this website [comicbookpaper.com](http://comicbookpaper.com) is a good one. Or just draw out your own!

