

WORDS INTO ACTIONS

Directions: You might use the reading below just to educate your students about how a comic artist works. When the story is on the page, it can look easy, and so it's probably a good idea for your students to get an idea of the complexity of the task of making a book like this.

You might decide to challenge your students to take a scene from history that Stan Mack does not include here, or a scene from a book they are reading, or one from their own lives, to plan and execute as a series of cartoon panels using this method. They might even try to emulate Stan Mack's drawing style.

How does a cartoonist tell a story?

Stan Mack begins by thinking about the whole story he wants to tell, then the parts of that story, and then the parts of each part. Then he imagines how combinations of pictures and words might work to tell that part. He makes a panel busy with ideas, in words.



Next, he sketches the possible pictures that express those ideas, in pencil, so that he can change things as he goes.



When he gets it the way he wants it, he inks the drawing and erases all the pencil lines.