

Graphic Classics

Worksheet 3

The Happy Prince

Understanding What We See

READ

In graphic novels illustrators use techniques similar to those used by film makers. A film maker does not keep his camera at the same distance from the actors. He will pan in to give close ups of the action and pan out to give viewers an idea of where the action is happening. The illustrator of a graphic novel does the same.

DISCUSS

With a partner discuss the following and make brief notes.

1. Why might a film maker or an illustrator begin a story with a “long shot” or distant view of the main character?

2. What reasons would a film maker or illustrator have for showing a “close up” of a character?

3. In a novel the author can tell the reader what the character is seeing. But how can an illustrator show that a scene is seen through a character’s eyes?



RESPOND

Examine the illustrations before answering.

1. Where are we seeing a scene at “street level”? Why do you think the illustrator did this?

2. Where has the illustrator used “close up” shots?

Why do you think this was done?

3. Can you find an illustration where we are seeing a scene through the Happy Prince’s eyes?

4. Colour can help us to understand the feelings of characters or to create an emotional effect. Some colours are considered “warm” colours and others are considered “cold” colours. Can you find an example in ‘The Happy Prince’ of colour adding to the effect?

