

5D 10 Ken Ho

A Speech on Important Elements of Successful Comic Strips and Characters

Hello everyone,

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to talk about my 'greatest love' – comic strips. This morning, I would like to share with you my views on two things. The first one is the important elements of good and successful comic strips. The second one is how to create a good and impressive character for your comic strips.

Good comic strips usually contain some elements such as sense of humour and irony of current issues. The comic strips that show a sense of humour bring readers fun, and they will laugh after reading them. They may help relieve their stress in life and give them faith and encouragement to deal with difficulties. Garfield is a good example of humorous comic strips. The main character, Garfield, often does silly things and messes up everything. It makes the readers laugh and its popularity has grown rapidly not only because of his ridiculous behaviour, but also the adorable face he got.

The other element of good comic strips is about irony of current issues. Government policies around the world are often controversial. Political comic strips may show the controversial point of a disputable issue. This kind of comic strips usually contains a little sense of humour and a sarcastic tone. It often depicts the contradiction of different stakeholders and makes the readers think. It can raise public awareness of the issue. The South China Morning Post in Hong Kong always posts some comic strips that are related to current issues and each picture gives a message with a sarcastic tone.

There are several ways to create a good character for your comic strips. First, the character must be memorable to readers. That means the character can be likable or unlikable. Garfield is a good example as he has a cute face and a hairy body with a round tummy. Although he is as lazy as a pig, his lovely profile draws popularity. Another example is SpongeBob. He is a talking sponge who lives in the seabed. Although he is not as charming as Garfield, he is special owing to his ability to talk. Also, he won't absorb water even in the sea. It is mysteriously interesting and impressive.

Second, a good comic strips character often says something which is

inspiring. It can be an aphorism or just a simple sentence with a positive message. It can give advice to the readers when facing problems in daily life.

Third, a good comic strips character can make readers think of a special thing, spirit or message. This makes it easy for readers to remember their appearance and personality.

For example, after reading the comic strips of Garfield, readers may be impressed by Garfield's image as a lazy couch potato.

That's the end of my sharing. Thank you.