Comics support reading comprehension in multiple ways. Could the map have been wrong?

They help readers to quickly identify important themes—

It does exist!

But are the legends true?

---settings---

---characters---

The Amulet Stone!

This seems significant...

---and background knowledge.

The ability to fluently decode and discover these story elements helps create an inviting, exciting experience for all types of readers.
For struggling readers especially, this can greatly increase engagement, understanding, and retention of content. --and gutters to boost comprehension and create a visually pleasing reading experience, both within and between each panel. To do so, comic authors and artists use strategies like captions, word bubbles—sound effects, menasas—

Comics are also multimodal texts, combining vivid images and brief bursts of prose to create a complex, yet unified story.

--clink--
--clink--
--clink--
Whoa!

Rumble Rumble Rumble

Guess I'm heading down.
Sequencing, determining importance, and synthesizing are additional reading comprehension strategies strengthened through comics. By dividing stories into easily recognizable segments, comics help readers better identify key details, themes, characters, plot developments, main ideas, and other literacy elements. Readers must also infer what happens in the spaces between each panel, or gutters, by reflecting on prior content while critically thinking about changes in time, setting, story arc, and character motivation. Even when comics seem poorly drawn or unorganized (like this page), readers can often find verbal and visual clues that help reinforce content and build suspense.
Getting close now.

Some of the main ways that comic artists help readers determine importance is through the size and placement of panels on the page.

Often, key details, events and words in the story will be featured prominently in panels, creating a visual pathway for readers to follow.

In general, the most significant events will occur in the largest panels and be featured near the center of the page.

The doorway to the tomb...

These must be the key holes.

This helps readers recognize vital story elements and scenes in a quick glance, as well as understand the comic's characters, themes, and plot in a more concrete way.
Comics’ synthesis of visual and textual clues also helps facilitate cognitive associations and abstract thinking throughout the reading experience.

Well, that sequence didn’t work. Perhaps their size was a clue?

Even when comprehension breaks down, these clues can support recall problem solving--

--so that readers can gain a deeper understanding of content.

It’s OPENING!
Finally, comics can help evaluate gaps in reading comprehension by encouraging reflection and summarization of content.

Overall, comics offer an excellent tool for creating and supporting a love of reading for all types of learners, helping students with--

--prediction--

--synthesis, sequencing--

At last! It all makes sense now.

--key details, inference--

--and critical thinking through images, text, or a combination of the two.

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