

Using the “What? So What? Now What?” Chart for Graphic Novel Analysis

Source: *Essex County Ghost Stories*, p. 126



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<p>What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Black and white--emphasizes emotion in the image (top part is mostly white because it depicts an innocent time, like Vince's childhood) -High contrast image with dark lines and dark shading (illustrates contrast of young vs. old, the past vs. the present) -Dark lines and shading emphasize Vince's age (wrinkles) and frailty (he is angular, skinny, with the disproportionate features of an old man) -Image is abstract (doesn't make visual sense), giving idea that Vince is "submerged" in a memory (he looks like he's underwater, but we know he's only standing in the river up to his knees, from p. 125) -He is crying and the tears are flowing upwards – the tears are white and they flow towards the memory in his mind at the top of the page. The tears act as a visual cue to the reader—it is this innocent memory that is sad to Vince, his sorrow is connected to it. -Vince is sad here, because this memory represents a time where he and his brother had a good relationship, in contrast to the rocky relationship they have as grown men. Their connection growing up was always hockey. -The river is important because they played hockey here as kids in the winter -The image is sad instead of happy because Vince has regrets about how the relationship with his brother has changed.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I can connect this frame to the relationship I had with my own brother -When we were little, we were best friends and did everything together (invent stuff or make crazy vehicles (go-carts out of toboggans) together and test them out, or go on long hikes in the woods -Things changed when we became teenagers -My brother was one of the “cool” kids at school, and I wasn't -caused a big rift so we didn't hang out, we didn't support each other anymore -it was heart-breaking, but as we became older all the silly high school stuff fell away, we started to be friends again and are best friends again now -My experience relates to Vince's situation with his own brother and all the ups and downs they experience
<p>Now What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Issues with relationships happen in the world all the time, especially between siblings -Conflict between siblings is common in TV shows and literature, and in real life -historically, Mary and Anne Boleyn and their rivalry for King Henry the VIII's attention -The overall message in the frame the graphic text creator has created is: Our personal decisions as we grow can negatively or positively affect the dynamic of our relationships. Though these changes are inevitable, sometimes they may cause regret.