

Regardless of whether you consider it hidden or not, there is a real power in comics. That power can communicate complex ideas through simplified forms. McCloud, in his work *Understanding Comics*, calls this idea of comics as “a form of amplification through simplification” (30). In other words, comics can take something complex, say a human face, and simplify it down to its basic features and what you are left with is basically an emoticon. Emoticons are used by us all the time to communicate semi-complex ideas rather than typing it out. This is because, as McCloud notes, “when we abstract an image through cartooning we’re not so much eliminating details as we are focusing on specific details...its essential ‘meaning’” (30). When you can see this and understand this ability found in cartooning and comics, one can realize just what a real power this can be for communicating.