PHASE 5 - CREATE

A Comic Book

Co-funded by the European Union

1. Anchor the look

A comic is held together by **two anchors**:

- a character that always looks the same, and
- an art style that always feels the same.

A - Open your project in your AI Tool

- Start a new thread. Give it a clear name `Untold Stories - [your character's name]`.
- Paste in: your character's name, age, role, time, place, the museum object,
- Add a short description (3–4 sentences) sharing your character, object and story angle.
- Upload your **first character image** from Phase 1 (if you have one). This is your starting point.

B. Pick your art style

Different stories deserve different styles. Pick the one that fits **your character and era**. Ask another LLM to discover the right style.

Examples of art styles: *European BD, Manga ink, American comic, Woodcut / etching, Watercolour storybook, Charcoal / graphite, etc.*

C. Generate the character reference sheet

Use the prompt below. Replace the bracketed slots with details from your character description. Then run it with your AI tool and your Phase 1 character image attached as the input image.

```
Create a character reference sheet of the exact same person from the reference image, drawn
in [YOUR ART STYLE].

LAYOUT
Top row: three head shots — front-facing, left profile, right profile.
Bottom row: two full-body shots — front, side.

CONSISTENCY
Replicate facial structure, age, hair, eyes from the reference image.

PERIOD-ACCURATE CLOTHING (same in every view)
[describe — fabric, cut, period, condition]

BACKGROUND
Plain off-white. No setting. No props.
Same line weight and shading style across all five views.

NOT ALLOWED
Modern clothing, modern objects, fantasy elements, sunglasses, masks, anything anachronistic
for [TIME / PLACE].
Do not draw any text, captions, or speech bubbles.
```

D. Lock the style

You also need a single image that locks the art style.

- Use google or another search engine to find a real example: "*Joann Sfar comic page watercolour" / "Akira manga panel close-up" / "Hergé Tintin BD page*"
- Download one. Save as `[character]-style-ref.png`.
- Make sure you can use it (on google images go to tools - usage rights - select 'Creative-Common License')

- Or generate one: ask for "*a generic landscape, drawn in [YOUR ART STYLE], no characters, no text — just to lock the look.*"

CHECK

Same person across all 5 views?
Period-accurate clothing matches across views?
No text, captions, or bubbles drawn into the image?
Style reference clearly shows the look?

If unsure: "We are not sure if our chosen style fits because _____"

2. Build Panel 1

A - Write the panel brief

This first Panel becomes the recipe for everything else.

PANEL 1 BRIEF — [scene title]

Shot type: [ ] wide [ ] medium [ ] close-up [ ] extreme close-up

Setting:_____
(location, time of day)

Characters:_____
(main + secondaries in 1–2 sentences each)

What happens:_____
(one clear action)

Mood: _____

Dialogue intent: _____
(what character would say — actual bubble in Step 5)

Evidence ID(s):_____
(e.g. F1, SG2 from your evidence list)

Bubble space: [ ] top [ ] bottom [ ] left [ ] right
(where to leave clear space in the panel for the bubble)

B - Fill in the image prompt

```
A single panel of a comic page, drawn in [YOUR ART STYLE].
Match the line weight, colour palette, and texture of the attached style reference image
exactly.

SHOT
[Wide / medium / close-up] of [CHARACTER NAME], the [age] [role] from [TIME / PLACE].

ACTION
[CHARACTER] is [DOING SPECIFIC ACTION]. [Other characters described in 1–2 sentences].

SETTING
[Location, time of day, period details. Examples of period objects visible: "stone-paved
floor, oil lamps on a wooden table"].
The setting must feel alive and specific for [TIME] in [PLACE].

COMPOSITION
Leave clear empty space at the [TOP / BOTTOM / LEFT / RIGHT] of the panel — for a speech
bubble overlay later. Do NOT draw any speech bubbles, captions, sound effects, or text.

CONSISTENCY
The character must match the attached character reference sheet exactly: same face, age,
clothing, hairstyle.

NOT ALLOWED
Modern clothing, modern objects, modern buildings, plastic, electrical wires, anachronisms
for [TIME / PLACE]. No text, letters, words, or readable signs anywhere in the panel.
```

C - Generate, check, iterate

*Run this prompt, attach **two input images:***
1. Your character reference sheet
2. Your style reference image

Regenerate ONLY if:

- Character looks like a different person
- Style is clearly off (manga came out as American comic)
- AI rendered text in the image (garbled letters anywhere)
- A clearly modern detail is visible
- Bubble space is missing entirely

Don't regenerate for:
slight pose variations, tiny background details, cosmetic things you'll fix at lettering.

CHECK

- Same character?
- Same style?
- No AI-rendered text?
- Clear bubble space?
- One clear action that matches the brief?
- No modern slips?

3. Save the recipe, generate

One panel works. **That pattern is your recipe.** Save it now and the next 5–7 panels will be much faster.

A - Reflect: 5 minutes, no AI

Answer in your own words:

What 3 details did I have to repeat? What kept the character consistent? What kept the style consistent? What did AI keep getting wrong?

These four answers are your recipe.

B - Save it as a skill (if your AI tool allows this option)

```
Save my comic panel recipe as a skill called "[Character] Panel Generator".
The skill should know: my character, art style, reference images, panel-brief format, prompt
template, and my
"NOT ALLOWED" list.
When I describe a new scene from my storyboard, the skill should produce: a panel brief, an
image prompt, a dialogue suggestion (max 15 words), and an evidence note marking fact / smart
guess / uncertain.
```

- **Does your AI tool** proposes a draft? Read it. Confirm.
- **Group running short on time?** Save the recipe as a project document instead. Same content, no skill creation. You'll paste it manually for each panel.

C - Test it before you trust it

Ask the skill to produce **a panel brief and image prompt for Panel 2**. Don't generate the image yet, just look at the plan.

- Does it match the format?
- Is the character right? Style right?

If it drifts, fix the recipe **now**, before building 5 more panels.

Now you scale. With your recipe in hand, you don't write each panel from zero.

D - Generate the page script

Ask your skill to produce a **Full page script** — one entry per remaining storyboard scene:

PAGE SCRIPT: [Character] Untold Story

PANEL 1 (already done)
PANEL 2
Shot: _____
Setting:_____
Action:_____
Dialogue: "_____" (max 15 words)
Evidence: [F1, SG2 — IDs from your evidence list]

PANEL 3 ... PANEL 8

CHECK

Recipe captures: character, art style, "NOT ALLOWED" list, dialogue rule (max 15 words)?

Audit the script BEFORE generating any image

This is the most important step in the whole comic phase. Read the page script against the checklist below.
Don't generate images until the script passes.

- Perspective— every panel from your character's knowledge only
- Evidence by ID — every claim cites a specific evidence ID
- No modern slips — in art descriptions OR dialogue
- Dialogue length — HARD MAX 15 words per bubble. Max 2 bubbles per panel. If a line is longer, split across bubbles or panels.
- Story arc — beginning, middle, end. Not a flat list of moments.
- Page flow — panels read left-to-right, top-to-bottom.
- Dignity — character is real and dignified, not a stereotype

If a panel fails any check, revise the script in chat first.

Good script first, generation second.

4. Script + generate the rest

A - Generate panel-by-panel

For each approved panel:

1. Use the panel brief + image prompt from the script
2. Attach character reference + style reference as inputs
3. Generate
4. CHECK against the panel-level checklist
5. Approve, save with a clear filename, move on

If a generation times out, retry just that one

The third-reference trick (after 1–2 approved panels)

Once you have 1–2 approved panels, attach **one of those approved panels** as a **third** reference image alongside the character + style references. The model copies the look of your already-approved panels, locking consistency even harder.

Inputs for Panel 4 onward:
1. Character reference sheet (locks the character)
2. Style reference image (locks the art style)
3. Panel 2 (approved) (locks how the character looks IN your style)

When 2 panels fail the same way — fix the recipe

This is one of the most important moments in the whole pathway. **Most groups will hit it once — and that's exactly the point.**

If the agent keeps making the character younger than your reference, or keeps drawing modern fonts on signs in the background, **stop generating**. Add a new line to your "NOT ALLOWED" list. Resave the skill. Try again.

You've just discovered the most useful AI workflow lesson there is: **the recipe matters more than the individual panel**. Note what you changed — it goes in the AI Audit at the end.

B - Letter & publish
Place panels on a page, add the speech bubbles.

Option 1. Generate a HTML template
- Prompt in a new thread "Generate a comic book page, as html code, the structure is a 2 × 3 grid ... ". Add the images to the prompt and play around with the prompt until you have the result you want. You can tweak the layout of your page as you wish, but keep in mind that images will be cropped sometimes to match your layout.
- Use **PublishWebpage** to turn the HTML into a public link. Save the link.

Option 2. You can manually Canva
- Open Canva → "Comic Strip" or "A4 Portrait" template
- Import all panel images (Uploads tab)
- Drag panels in storyboard order
- Add speech bubbles using Elements > Speech Bubble
- Use a clear comic font (Bangers, Patrick Hand) avoid script fonts that hurt readability
- Add title at top, Creator's Note + AI Audit at bottom
- Export as PDF or PNG

When you finish early
- 2-page comic: continue the storyboard, generate 6–8 more panels using the recipe
- Strict secondary character consistency: make a mini-reference (one front-facing portrait) for any named secondary character; attach it alongside the main character ref in panels where they appear
- Save your art style as a Skill: save just the style part of your recipe (style name + reference + line-weight rules) as a separate skill, so other groups can pick that style
- Project gallery: one webpage hosting every group's finished comic

CHECK (final review)

- Page reads in correct order (LTR top-down, or RTL if manga)?
- All bubbles readable without zooming?
- Dialogue ≤15 words / max 2 bubbles per panel?
- Title visible at the top?
- Creator's Note + AI Audit visible?
- Marked as AI-generated?