

Class 4c

## A Fundamental Sign: Exodus & the Passover Ritual




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## Outline




- The Tale
  - The Exodus Story
  - The Passover Ritual
- The Telling
  - Producing Cultural Memory
  - Film as multimodal site of reconstruction
  - Temple ritual as multimodal site of reconstruction

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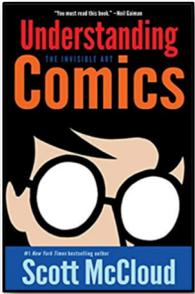
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## The Comic Medium

### Affordances

- Abstraction allows
  - universality
  - self-referentiality



Scott McCloud  
*Understanding Comics*  
(1993)

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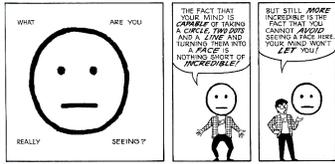
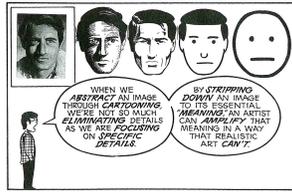
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## The Comic Medium

### Affordances

- Abstraction allows
  - universality
  - self-referentiality




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## The Comic Medium

### Affordances

- Abstraction allows
  - universality
  - self-referentiality
- Image and gesture
- Text (as image and word)
- Spatial play




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## The Comic Medium

### Affordances

- Abstraction allows
  - universality
  - self-referentiality
- Image and gesture
- Text
- Spatial play
- Sequence
- Closure: the gaps we fill




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## The Telling

### Producing Cultural Memory

- We abstract textual elements into our codes and conventions
- Then we reconstruct those abstracted elements into our contemporary context
- Artists tap popular cultural memory by
  - Localizing the story
  - Identifying the characters
  - Characterizing their motives
  - Page layout or scene design

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## The Telling

### Film as Multimodal Site of Reconstruction

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*Exodus: Gods and Kings*  
(Dir. Ridley Scott, 2014)

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### The Telling

#### Ritual as Multimodal Site of Reconstruction

Passover was reconstructed in temple ritual



Passover was reconstructed in the canon (Exodus)



Passover is reconstructed in Jewish ritual now



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### The Telling

#### Temple Ritual as Multimodal Site of Reconstruction

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### The Telling

#### Temple Ritual as Multimodal Site of Reconstruction



Babylonian World Map, British Museum



The Psalter Map, c. 1260, British Library Additional Ms 28684, f.9 recto

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## The Telling

### Temple Ritual as Multimodal Site of Reconstruction



Hans Röst, Mappa Mundi, 1480



Heinrich Douing, right

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## The Telling

### Fixing Cultural Memory through ritual

- Freud's view of religious ritual
- Knight & Levine's view of what ritual does for people

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