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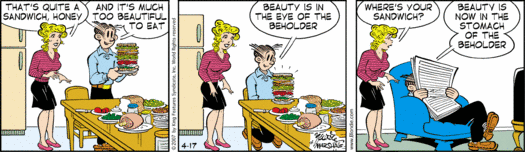
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Comic Strips: U.S. vs. Japan

Comic strips have been a part of newspapers and literary culture for many years, dating back to even as far as the mid -1800s in Europe (Henton). They shortly began appearing in the United States, and eventually across the world. Depending upon the era and location, comic strips have taken to many different forms, meaning, according to what the artist is wanting to portray, it can be seen through their comic strip. Whether it be in relation to comedy, political or cultural based.

The United States features comic strips weekly in the newspapers. Some of the most common comic strips are found in the Sunday Papers, with their own dedicated section. Over the years, many of the most popular comic strips have stayed true to what they have originally started with, and many are very recognizable.



“Blondie” has become one of the most popular and recognizable comics in the U.S. They often feature the main character, Dagwood Bumstead, and his wife, Blondie Boopadoop. They can tell a short story in a matter of three different panels. In the panels above, it’s depicting the infamous sandwiches that Dagwood often creates for himself. The first panel displays the finished product. Taking to the second panel, it shows Dagwood about the eat his sandwich. Then in the third panel, we see him sitting in a chair, with Blondie asking “Where’s your sandwich?” and with his reply, “Beauty is now in the stomach of the beholder”, we can comprehend that he has clearly eaten and enjoyed his sandwich and is now letting it digest. In just a matter of one panel to the next, we can predict, in our minds that the time has passed and we can understand what has happened by the end of the strip.

Looking at the U.S. strip, motion isn’t displayed much in the panels, but that time has passed between the three panels in the gutters.

Now, we see a comic strip from a Japanese artist, who has clearly displayed motion. The characters seem still, holding their position, but with the graphics displayed in the background, it trains our eye to see that the character, is in fact, in motion, changing from panel to panel. The story being portrayed shows us a fight is occurring between two people.

Japanese comic strips seem to represent more of an action based story; between each of

the panels, the gutters leave us little time to think that much time has passed, except for the fact

that the fight is continuing to carry on.

The main similarity between the two comic strips seems to be the detail that drawn in each of the panels. According to whatever the story line may be that is portrayed, the artists made sure to focus on detail and letting the reader grasp all of the elements in the story; Blondie portrays all the ingredients used to create the great sandwich. The Japanese comic portray all of the action shots and what would be sound effects if one was watching the fight on film.



Henton, Lesley. “History Of Newspaper Comics”. *Ehow.com*. 14 September 2011.

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Japanese Comic

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