

# KEY FEATURES OF A GRAPHIC NOVEL

Both graphic novels and comic books use a combination of words and pictures to tell a story. The story is told through the following basic features or components: visual and textual elements, time, and sound.

## THE VISUAL FEATURES

**Page:** A page is the smallest and indivisible physical unit of a comic book or graphic novel. The page offers an equal amount of surface for the visual and textual elements to convey the story. When the story of the graphic novel is transformed into a script (i.e., it is divided into dialogue between characters, and the captions are written to introduce the background of the characters or time periods), the artist begins to translate it into pictures usually within rectangular spaces enclosed by lines, and to lay them out (arrange them) on each page, guided by the aesthetics and chronology of the story, mood, and actions depicted in the drawn frames.

## TIME LINE

# MARS COLONY

Written by  
ROBERT CUTTING

Illustrated by  
DHAMINDRA JEEVAN



**Splash page:** The opening page of a graphic novel is known as the splash page. It contains the title and the subtitles of the story, the credits associated with the artists and writers, and the logo, when applicable, connected with the story.



### FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

**JENNY CHANG:** A 14-year-old girl whose family is one of the first to move to Mars from Earth.

**DEREK CHANG:** Jenny's 10-year-old brother.



**DR. MICHAEL CHANG AND DR. JEAN CHANG:** The parents of Jenny and Derek. They are scientists who are part of the first human colony on Mars.

**JOHN DARIUS:** The general manager of the Mars colony.

