Panel to Panel Transitions in Comics

With examples from:

The Magic Fish

by Trung Le Nguyen

PANEL TO PANEL TRANSITIONS

According to Scott McCloud* there are six basic types of panel to panel transitions found in comics:

1. Moment to Moment
2. Action to Action
3. Subject to Subject
4. Scene to Scene
5. Aspect to Aspect
6. Non Sequitur

*See Scott McCloud's book Understanding Comics pages 70-89 for information on transitions.
See Scott McCloud's book *Making Comics* pages 15-17 for information on transitions.

MOMENT TO MOMENT TRANSITIONS

Moment to Moment transitions concentrate on an <u>action</u> they progress through a series of moments.





ACTION TO ACTION TRANSITIONS

Action to action transitions occur when person or thing is portrayed in a series of actions.



SUBJECT TO SUBJECT TRANSITIONS

In a subject to subject transition we see panels change the focus from one subject to another as a scene progresses.



SCENE TO SCENE TRANSITIONS

Panel transitions from scene to scene show the reader how the story progresses through various spaces, settings and times.



ASPECT TO ASPECT TRANSITIONS

Aspect to aspect transitions move the reader's attention from one aspect of a scene or place to another in order to convey a certain tone or mood.



NON SEQUITUR TRANSITIONS

These transitions tend to be an unrelated sequence of characters, scenes, and objects. The relationship between the images is up to the reader to discern in order to find meaning or to detect mood or tone.



GROUP ACTIVITY: TRANSITIONS AND EMPATHY / IDENTIFICATION

1. Review this image from pg. 28
2. Identify the transitions
3. Discuss why Nguyen might have transitioned between the panels in these ways.
4. What do the transitions make the reader's feel?
5. What do you think Helen is feeling in the past and the present as it's represented on the page?
6. What universal message is Nguyen developing with this story and this particular page?
7. How does the use of transitions between the three storylines here help the reader empathize with Helen (an immigrant)?
8. Find another page/s in The Magic Fish where you can see Nguyen using a sequence of images in a way that helps the reader identify with Tién as he struggles with his sexuality.

