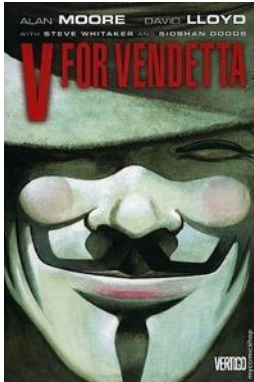## KEY KNOWLEDGE: Graphic Novel or Comic?

Pictures have always told stories. Sometimes, they do this is a single image, sometimes over a series of images. Pictures and words together have power to tell stories from multiple viewpoints with subtle differences in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound. Comics and graphic novels have particular conventions that help tell their stories.

**Alan Moore says that 'graphic novel' is a marketing term... that I never had any sympathy with. The term 'comic' does just as well for me ... The problem is that 'graphic novel' just came to mean 'expensive comic book' …**
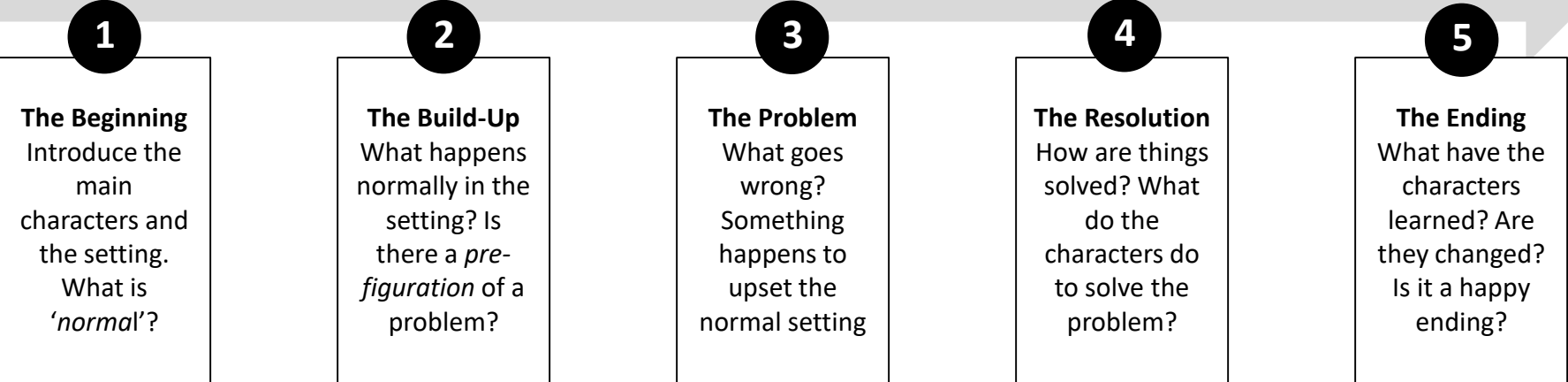
Alan Moore

**Narrative** – an account of connected events; a story. Narratives have characters and a setting, as well as a narrator or person from whose point of view the story is told. The 3 act or 5 act structure is a good way to tell story.

**THREE ACT STRUCTURE**

Act 1 The Set Up
Act 2 The Conflict
Act 3 The Resolution

**Picture = Image**
**Word = Text**

## KEY KNOWLEDGE: Language

VIEWPOINT
- 1st person: talking about yourself – I, WE
- 2nd person: talking to someone else – YOU
- 3rd person: talking about someone else – HE, SHE, IT, THEY

TEXT EFFECTS
- **Bold**: boldness or strength
- *Italics*: projects intensity of conversation
- Smaller print size: conveys a whisper
- Different fonts: dialects and different languages
- Balloons are read left to right or top to bottom

PANELS
- A panel is a box containing pictures, showing what is happening in the story
- Represents a moment in time; a single action
- Panels are arranged left to right, top to bottom



Caption
Thought Balloon
Sound Effect
Dialog Balloon
Gutter

**FIVE ACT STRUCTURE**

**1**
**The Beginning**
Introduce the main characters and the setting. What is *'normal'?*

**2**
**The Build-Up**
What happens normally in the setting? Is there a *pre-figuration* of a problem?

**3**
**The Problem**
What goes wrong? Something happens to upset the normal setting

**4**
**The Resolution**
How are things solved? What do the characters do to solve the problem?

**5**
**The Ending**
What have the characters learned? Are they changed? Is it a happy ending?