

# Some Manga Basics

- Manga is the Japanese word for comics-literally translated it means “whimsical pictures”
- In it’s modern form, Manga dates from shortly after WWII.
- In Japan, Manga is read by people of all ages and covers a wide range of topics.

# More Manga Info.

- Like graphic novels, Manga uses text and pictures to present information
- Traditionally, Manga is read from back-to-front, with panels and dialog balloons read right-to-left
- When produced for the U.S. market, some Manga is “flipped” so that it can be read front-to-back and left-to-right.

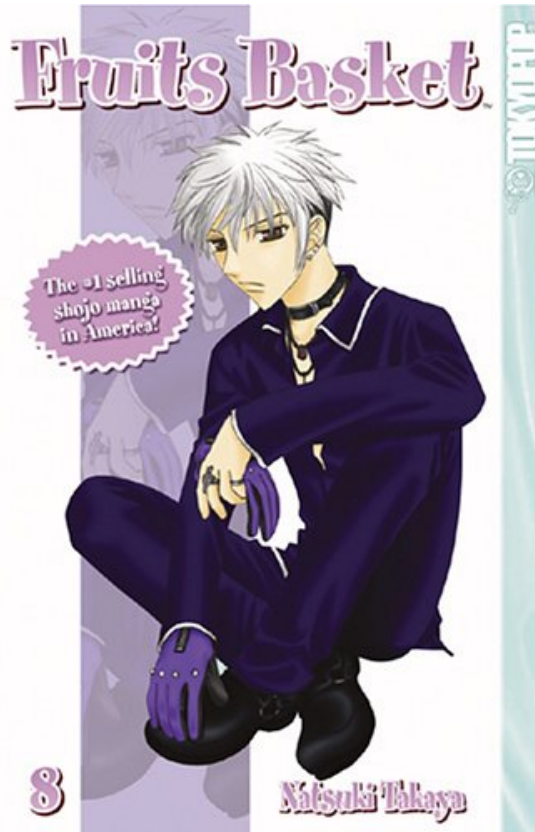
# Parts of a Manga Book

Manga consists of:

cover

and

inside pages

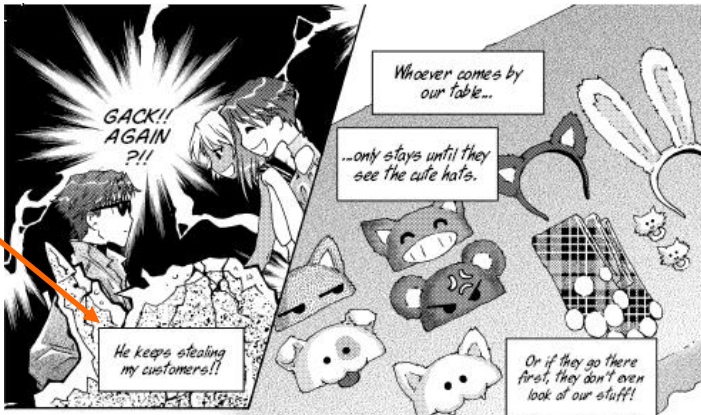


# A Manga Page

Pages consist of a variety of elements

- Panels-squares or rectangles that contain a single scene
- Gutters-space between panels
- Dialog Balloons-contain communication between/among characters
- Thought Balloons-contain a character's thoughts
- Captions-contain information about a scene or character
- Sound Effects-visual sound clues i.e.. Wonk! Pow!

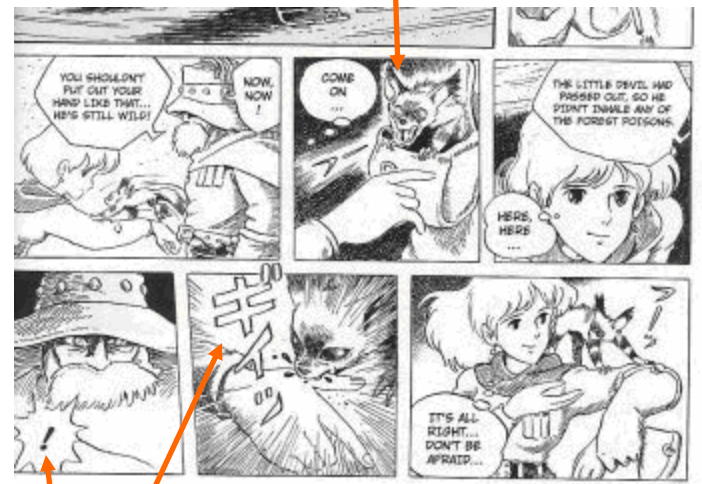
Caption



Panel

Thought Balloon

Dialog Balloon



Sound Effect

Gutter

# How to read a Manga Page



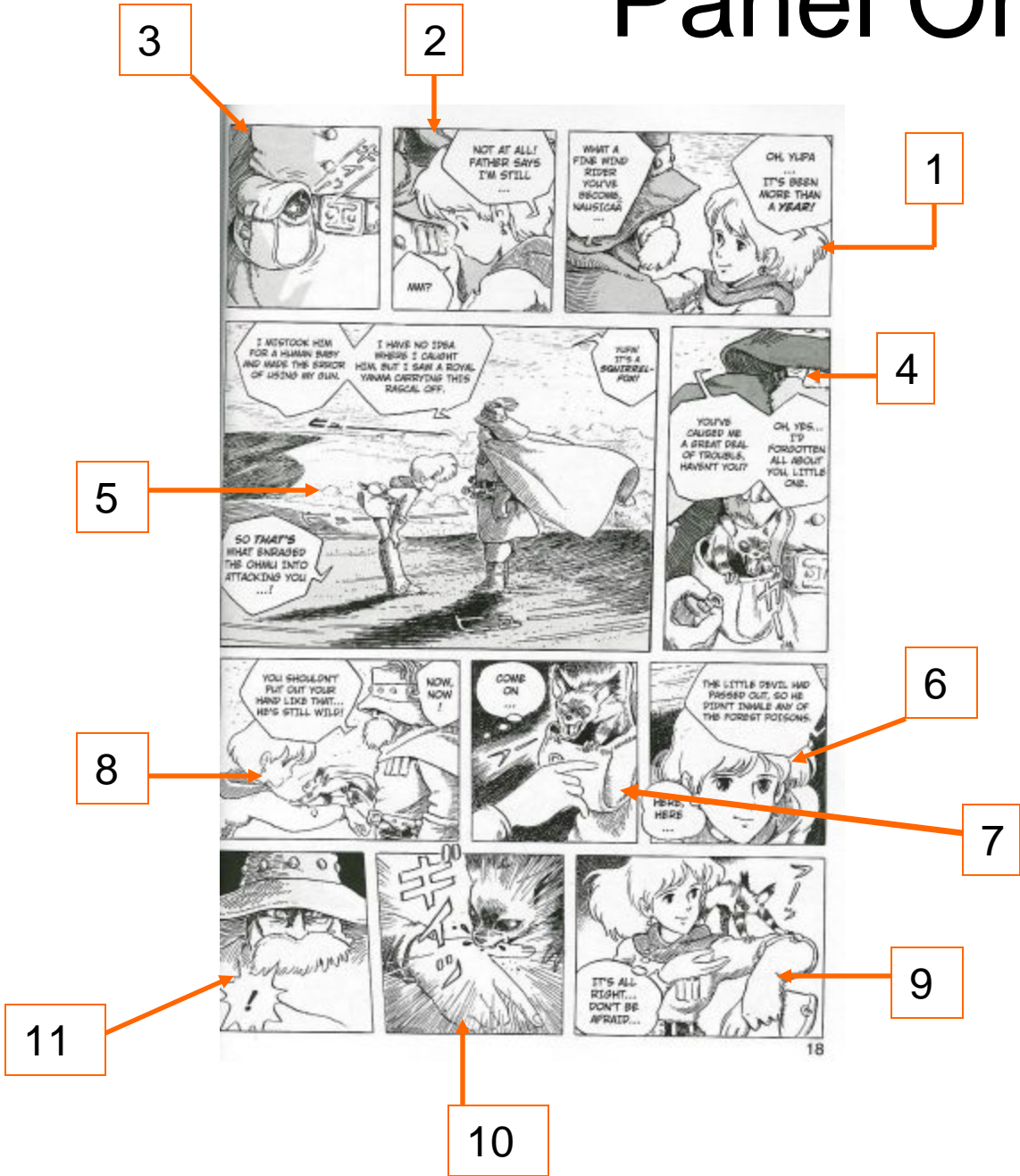
Unlike traditional western texts, Manga is read from back-to-front

Often, if you start at what looks like the front of the Manga, you will see a message like this

It says: "You're reading the wrong way!"

You should then flip to what looks like the back of the Manga and begin there

# Panel Order

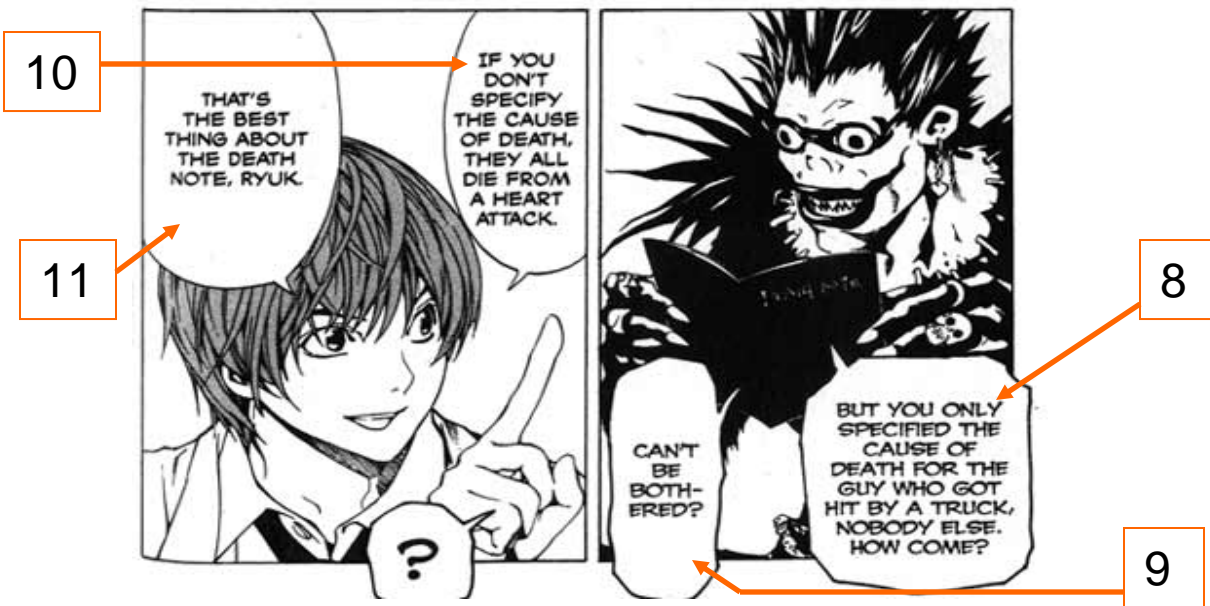
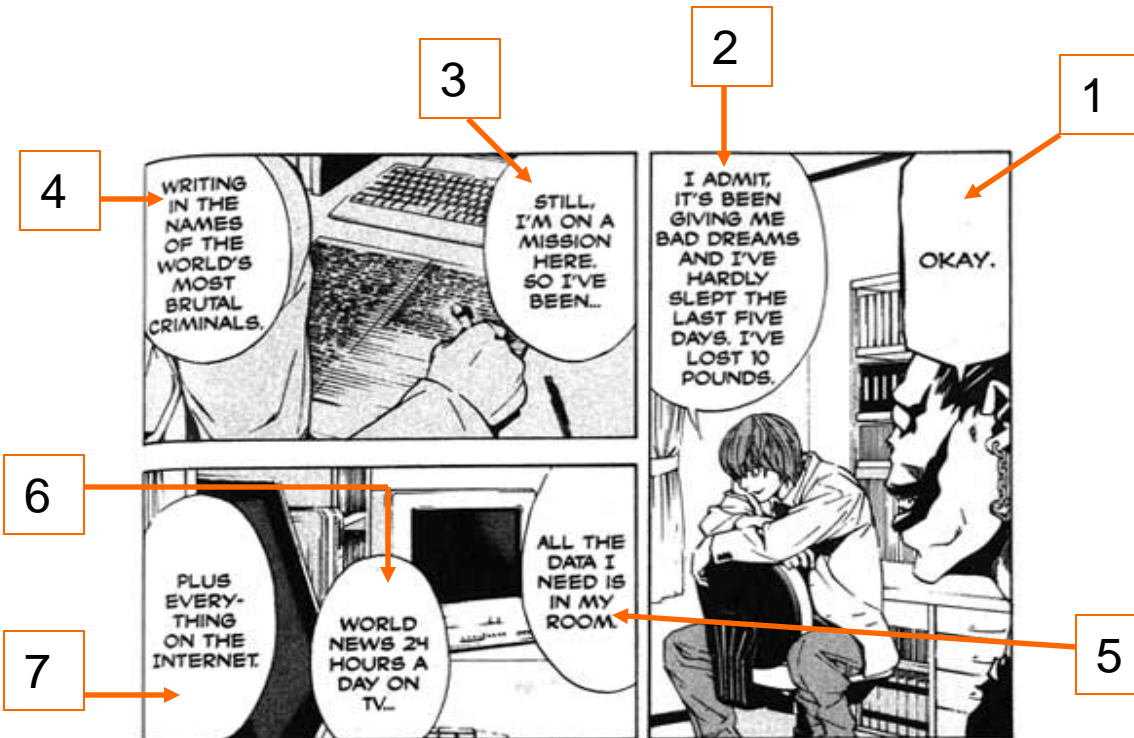


Just as you read traditional Manga pages “reversed,” in a back-to-front sequence,

the panels on each page are similarly “reversed” and read in a right-to-left sequence

# Dialog Balloons

Dialog balloons are read right-to-left as well.





- Some Americanized Manga has been “flipped” so that it reads front-to-back and left-to-right
- Some newer Manga is written by Western writers and is created with a front-to-back, left-to-right orientation
- If you are unsure of which way to read your Manga, try a couple of pages and see if the storyline is making any sense!

# Further Reading

For more information about Manga, take a look at these resources:

- *Shonen Jump* – a monthly magazine put out by Viz Communications
- Understanding Manga and Anime by Robin Brenner
- Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga, and Graphic Novels by Scott McCloud

- [Librarian's Guide to Anime & Manga](#)
- [Tokyopop](#)
- [Viz Communications](#)