

WATCHMEN BRAIN STORM - THEME OF TIME

Watch - a clock on the wrist

Watch - a verb - to look, observe

noun - "on watch" stay awake, mentally alert

"The Night's Watch" - the guard against the forces of darkness

clocks measure time

time - sequence of events: past - present - future

"quantify rates of change in material reality or in conscious experience"

race against time

just in time

countdown

is it the same "time" everywhere on earth?

So some places are in the past compared to our position or in the future

What is the significance of "2021"?

What does it MEAN?

How was it derived? On what is it based?

Is it the age of the planet?

Have we always divided time the way we do now? How did we do it before clocks? Before the calendar we use now? Has a week always been seven days? Why?

Julian calendar - Gregorian calendar

Does the whole world use the same calendar?

No - forty some calendars - 168 countries use Gregorian strictly, four more modified

The clocks in the story at the chapter starts show a countdown to midnight.

- sense of foreshadowing

HOW DOES TIME WORK IN A STORY?

- how is time represented in fiction?

HOW DOES TIME FUNCTION DIFFERENTLY, SPECIFICALLY, IN A COMIC BOOK STORY?

When we add PICTURES, and simulate film frames in some ways and at some times, how does this all change the representation of time?

How does time work in comics?

Chapters 3-4 of UNDERSTANDING COMICS gives us a great look at the answer.

IN CONTEXT

Dr. Manhattan - character most associated with time theme

- experiences all time at once

Opening sequence of chapter four

- ALL TIME at once

“All we ever see of stars are their old photographs.”

- pocket - watch atomic power

“Professor Einstein says that time differs from place to place...if time is not true, what purpose have watch makers?”

old and young - Janey and Laurie

TIME in relation other characters?

- Brainstorm theme of time in WATCHMEN

- character - black kid (how many black people in this comic?) Vs gay woman cabbie

- More on hero myth C&C

- lots of themes

- When Rorschach becomes Rorschach (end of chapter six).
- What does Laurie represent for Jon when he first meets her?
- What does Laurie represent for Dan when she comes back into his life?
- What's the importance in the story's wider context for when Laurie learns who her father is?
- What's the connection mean between clocks, God, and Dr. Manhattan?
- Analyze the meaning of the panel in chapter one pg.18. The things on the desk matter!
- The people on the street also mean something. What?
- What's the importance of Rorschach to Dr. Malcolm Long?

Race in Watchmen

Sex in Watchmen

Sexism and/or misogyny in Watchmen

Identity and masks in Watchmen

Gender and gender roles in Watchmen

Theme of justice and world-saving

Theme of history

Watchmen as a commentary on American culture/politics

BLOOD?

Use of color in Watchmen

Watchmen and the 9-panel grid: narrative storytelling