

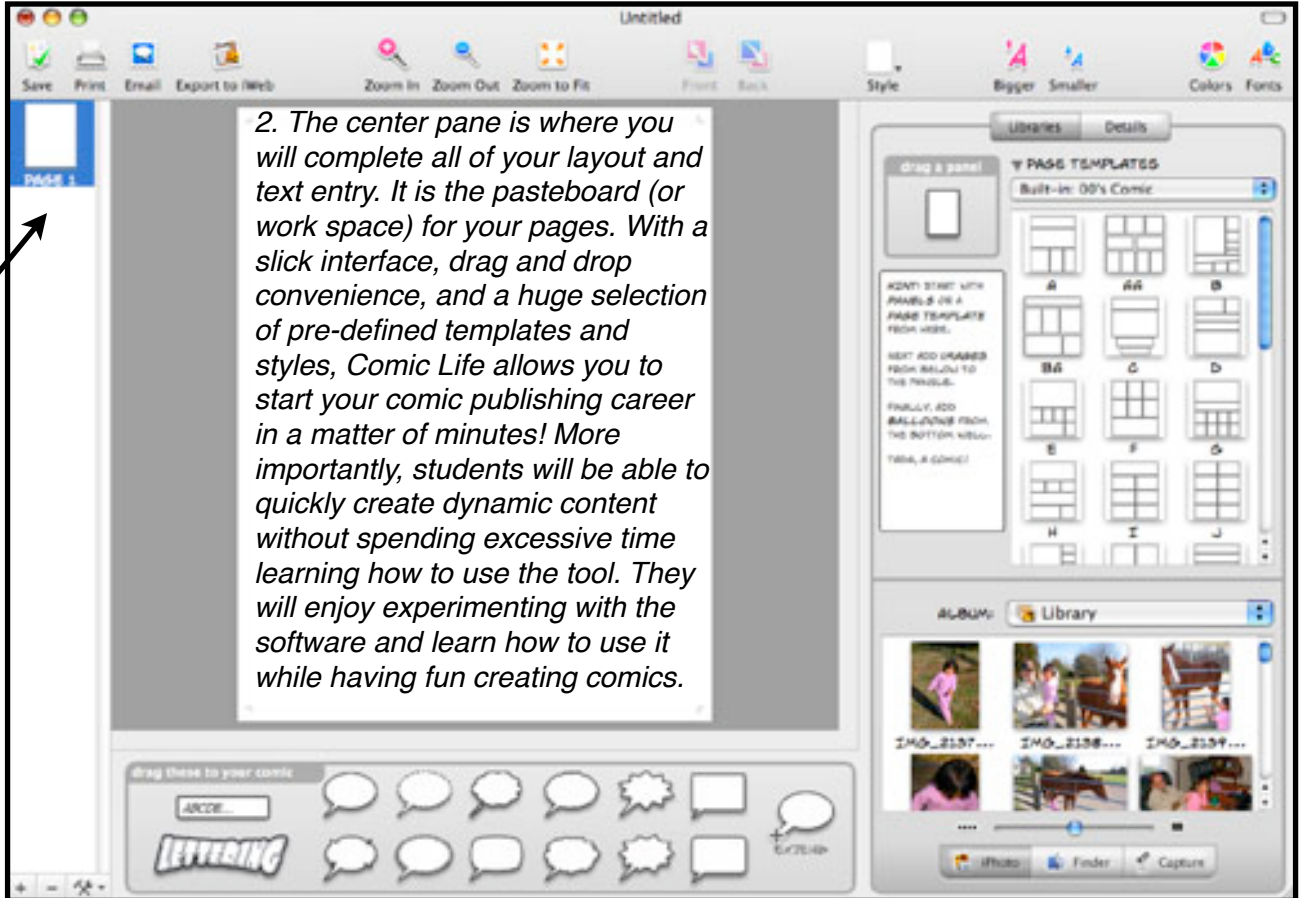


The Comic Life Interface

Comic Life gives you a clean and simple interface to use when creating your comic masterpiece. The main window is divided into four major panes.

1. The left pane shows your pages and allows you to manage them by adding, removing or re-arranging them.

2. The center pane is where you will complete all of your layout and text entry. It is the pasteboard (or work space) for your pages. With a slick interface, drag and drop convenience, and a huge selection of pre-defined templates and styles, Comic Life allows you to start your comic publishing career in a matter of minutes! More importantly, students will be able to quickly create dynamic content without spending excessive time learning how to use the tool. They will enjoy experimenting with the software and learn how to use it while having fun creating comics.



4. The bottom section of the window has a collection of text containers to create annotations, speech and thought bubbles in a variety of styles. The filters you apply to the text elements allow you to create eye-popping effects.

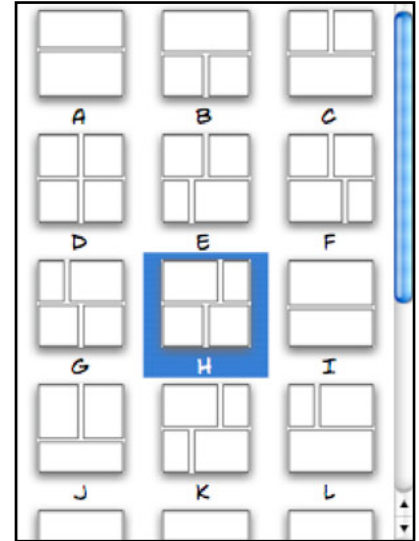
3. The right side of the window has libraries and settings for page layouts and templates, and also an interface to browse your iPhoto library, albums, and any folder on your hard drive or mounted disks.



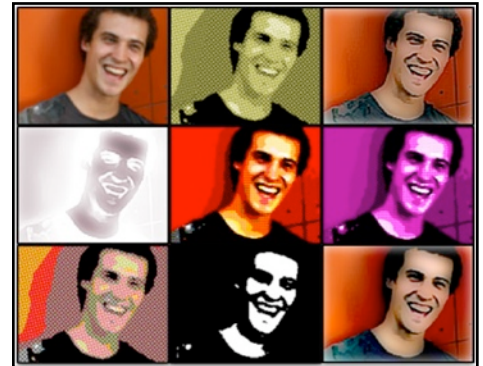
How to Create a Comic in Comic Life

Creating a comic with Comic Life is a simple 5-step process.

1. Select a template for your new page. There are over 200 templates in categories such as comics from the 40's, 60's and 80's, manga, graphic novels, and euro comics. Or, you can create your own layout by dragging panels anywhere you want them.



2. Add digital images from iPhoto, other disks or a connected digital camera. You can drag and drop images from the interface of Comic Life (from your iPhoto library or any connected disk), or you can drag items directly from the Finder (desktop or documents folder) into Comic Life. If you'd like to capture images directly from a camcorder or camera, such as an iSight, you can use the capture feature of Comic Life and create your comic with images you grab on the fly. Dragging an image onto a panel will put the image into the panel and crop it so the shortest dimension of the image matches the shortest dimension of the panel. You can adjust the panel size/shape separately from the image's size.



3. Select a style/filter for digital images. You can leave your images in their unfiltered state, but Comic Life's built-in filters and styles give you some very cool control over how 'comicy' your comic looks. If you don't like the pre-defined styles, you can enter your own filter settings to get that perfect look. Don't overlook the fact that you can draw your own images (on the computer, or on paper and scan them in) and then include them in your comic once they are in a digital format.

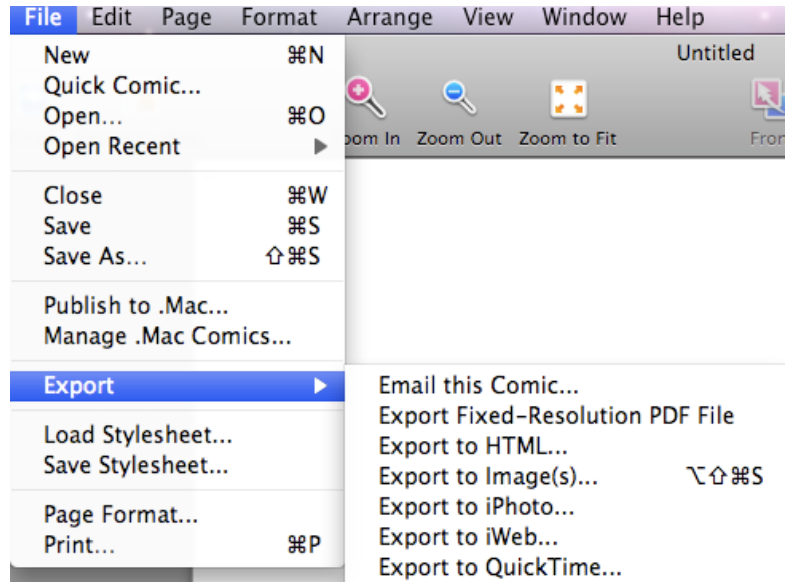
4. Add text containers and text. Just like almost everything else in Comic Life, adding text is a simple drag and drop process. The text containers at the bottom of the window provide you with different text presentations. Drag a container into your page and enter your text. If you have a balloon selected, you can drag the tail to associate the speech or thought with a particular character in an image. Additional tails can be added for more than one speaker at a time. Other text containers have options for styles and effects to enhance the text. The controls allow you to stretch, scale, skew, colorize, outline, shade and too many other options to list.



The pre-defined options are numerous and individual controls let you take them further. Nothing says WOW like...



5. Save (frequently) and export to your format of choice. Your export decisions will be based on what you intend to do with the comic when you're done. Comic Life has several export options that allow you to share your work in digital or paper/printed form. The HTML export creates an interface that allows users to 'flip' through your comic page-by-page. Exporting to an album in iPhoto lets you build a quality book and then have it printed by Kodak.



Other Uses for Comic Life

Your imagination is the only thing that limits what you can do with Comic Life. You can create graphics for use on web pages (or other publications) that would be time consuming to create with other tools. Use Comic Life to help break down complex ideas and to create entertaining content for material that can sometimes be dull. Here are some assignment ideas that lend themselves to the use of Comic Life:

- * Timelines (history, events, sequences)
- * Historical figures (history of, life of)
- * Instructions (step by step, details, illustrations, easy to follow)
- * Dialogue punctuation
- * Character analysis
- * Plot analysis
- * Storytelling
- * Pre-Writing Tool
- * Post-Reading Tool (SUCH AS BOOK REPORTS)
- * Teaching Onomatopoeias
- * Yearbooks

...and on and on

This excerpt is taken directly from the Macinstruct Website, Tech Ed page:
<http://www.macinstruct.com/node/69>

How to Install ComicLife

GGUSD has a district license of ComicLife. This license enables any teacher to install ComicLife on any and all classroom, teacher and lab computers within our district.

In order to install ComicLife, navigate to our "Tech Rep Rap" page from the following site:

1. Go to www.ggusd.us
2. Click on Departments - Instructional Technology
3. Click on Support and News - Tech Rap
4. Clcik on Tech Rep Rap
5. Scroll down until you see "ComicLife District License" and click on it.
6. Click on the comiclfe.dmg file (for Mac) or comiclfe-win.exe (for PC) to download the installer.
7. Click on the registration information for either Mac or PC (depending upon which type of computer you will be installing it on) for further installation instructions.

MAC Registration Information:

Serial Number Name: Carole Monteiro

Serial Number: comiclf001-X89A-T278-Q2VK-H05L-4051

PC Registration Information:

Name or organization: Garden Grove Unified School District

Serial Number: CMLFW1-F7A7-72A5-8219-0F62-01A2

* After installing be sure to register Comic Life and then go up to the "Comic Life" menu or "File" and choose "Check for Updates" and install the latest update.

* If you have any questions, comments or need assistance with Comic Life, please contact me at: cjones1@ggusd.us