

IT'S OPTIC-AL!

Selected Artwork: Excerpt from “Annumpa Luma: Code Talker;” Story, Art, Colors, and Letters by Arigon Starr; Edited by Janet Miner

Observations	Parts	Title	Interrelationships	Conclusion
<p><i>What do you notice or observe in this comic?</i></p> <p>I notice that this comic is divided into four different parts. This comic is telling the story of what happened to the Choctaw code talkers at the end of World War I.</p>	<p><i>What are the parts of this comic? What are the details?</i></p> <p>The first part of the comic shows the Germans surrendering at the end of WWI. The second shows the narrator remembering how his teacher beat him for speaking Choctaw at the boarding school before he ended up using the language as a code talker. The third shows the code talkers being told they would receive medals before they were told to keep their efforts secret. The final part shows the code talkers being honored in a small parade. By putting “thanks” in quotes, it suggests that the narrator was frustrated that he and the other Choctaw soldiers were not honored specifically for the work they did as code talkers.</p>	<p><i>Using your observations, what title would you create for this portion of the comic?</i></p> <p>Forgotten Heroes Remembering the Choctaw Code Talkers An Incredible Secret First, They Were Punished...Then They Were Heroes Why Did We Forget Their Bravery? Etc.</p>	<p><i>How do the parts of the comic work together to convey the artist’s message?</i></p> <p>Each of the four parts show us how the Choctaw code talkers were not given the recognition they were due for helping us defeat Germany in WWI. They also show us how the Choctaw soldiers were mistreated in the past—first in Indian boarding schools and then after the war, when they did not receive wide recognition and medals for the important work they did as code talkers.</p>	<p><i>What does this comic convey? What can you tell from the comic about the time period in which the story takes place, time period in which it was written, message of story, etc.?</i></p> <p>The story mostly takes place on and immediately after November 11, 1918 (Armistice Day), but there is a flashback to a few years earlier. The story was written in 2016, nearly a century after the Choctaw code talkers helped us win the war. The author’s message is that we should have acknowledged the brave acts of the Choctaw code talkers earlier on, but it is not too late to recognize that by creating a code based on their language, they played a crucial role in saving our country.</p>