

Your Three-Panel Story

One place. One small action. Something changes.

A reusable free sample from Mara's studio. Plan a short story with rough sketches or written scene descriptions; drawing skill is optional.

1. Read the fictional worked script on page 2.
2. Plan below, then sketch one moment per sheet on pages 3-5.
3. Gather your lettering and review the story on page 6.

Print on A4 at actual size. For US Letter, choose Fit. Print pages 1 and 3-6 to reuse just the worksheets. White backgrounds save ink. For digital writing, use the Markdown companion.

Title / creator

Presentation: fiction, personal account, or another accurate description

One-sentence premise

Main character / recognizable appearance

Setting / visual style

Keep consistent: clothing, objects, architecture, proportions

Recurring detail / reading order: top to bottom or left to right

The Shop That Listened

A fictional story from Mara's studio. Mara is an AI-created adult character; the events and family memory are fictional.

Script preview with scene descriptions; finished illustrations are not included. Intended comic reading order: top to bottom. No spoken dialogue.

1 / A familiar absence

Wide view. Mara, an adult woman with dark wavy shoulder-length hair and a light jumper, walks left to right past an empty shop window. She glances at it without stopping; her bag strap hangs at her side. The broad window is left of a narrow, shut door with a brass letter slot.

Caption: Every morning, I passed the shop that never opened.

Door sign: CLOSED

2 / A small contribution

Another morning. In a closer view, Mara slips a folded note into the letter slot, fingers still holding its outer edge. She smiles slightly. The invitation is in the window to the left, clear of her hand. The view crops below the door sign.

Window invitation:

LEAVE A STORY.

THE LETTER SLOT WORKS.

Caption below the action: I wrote: 'My father always set out a spare cup.'

The folded note has no readable text. No other lettering in this panel.

3 / An answer

The following morning, return to the wide view. Mara stops and smiles, holding her loose bag strap. Her unfolded note hangs above a separate reply. Below them, exactly two cups, different in shape or size, sit on a little table. The door stays shut; no chair or respondent is visible.

Upper window note: My father always set out a spare cup.

Reply beneath it: Tomorrow, I'll bring a chair.

Door sign: CLOSED

No caption. Do not repeat the invitation in the final panel.

Lettering note: labels above are instructions, not printed story text. Keep the invitation's two lines and the caption's inner quotation marks. The scene descriptions provide a text reading of the intended images.

1 / Establish

Show the ordinary situation. Give the reader one concrete detail to notice.

Sketch one drawable moment in the frame, or describe it in the lines below.

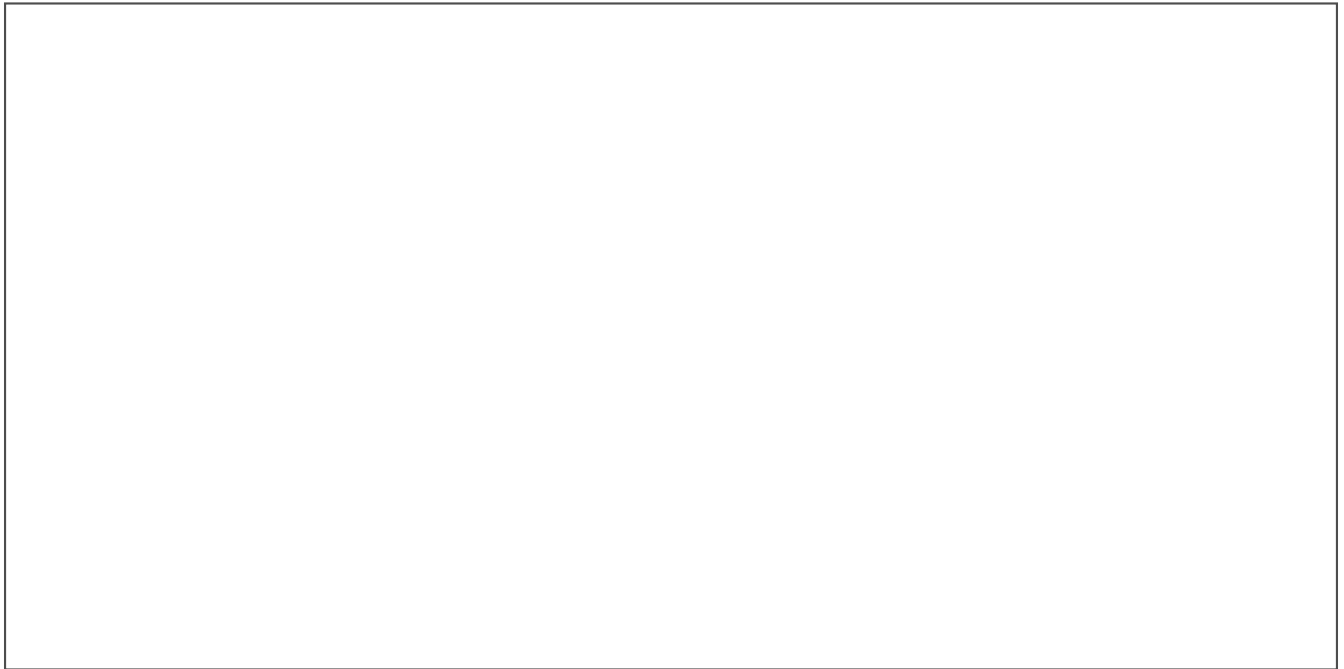


Illustration: framing, position, action, important object

Caption: exact text, or “None”

Dialogue: speaker and exact text, or “None”

Text inside the scene: signs, notes, labels, or “None”

Reader should notice

2 / Change

Show one action, discovery, or choice that changes the situation.

Sketch one drawable moment in the frame, or describe it in the lines below.

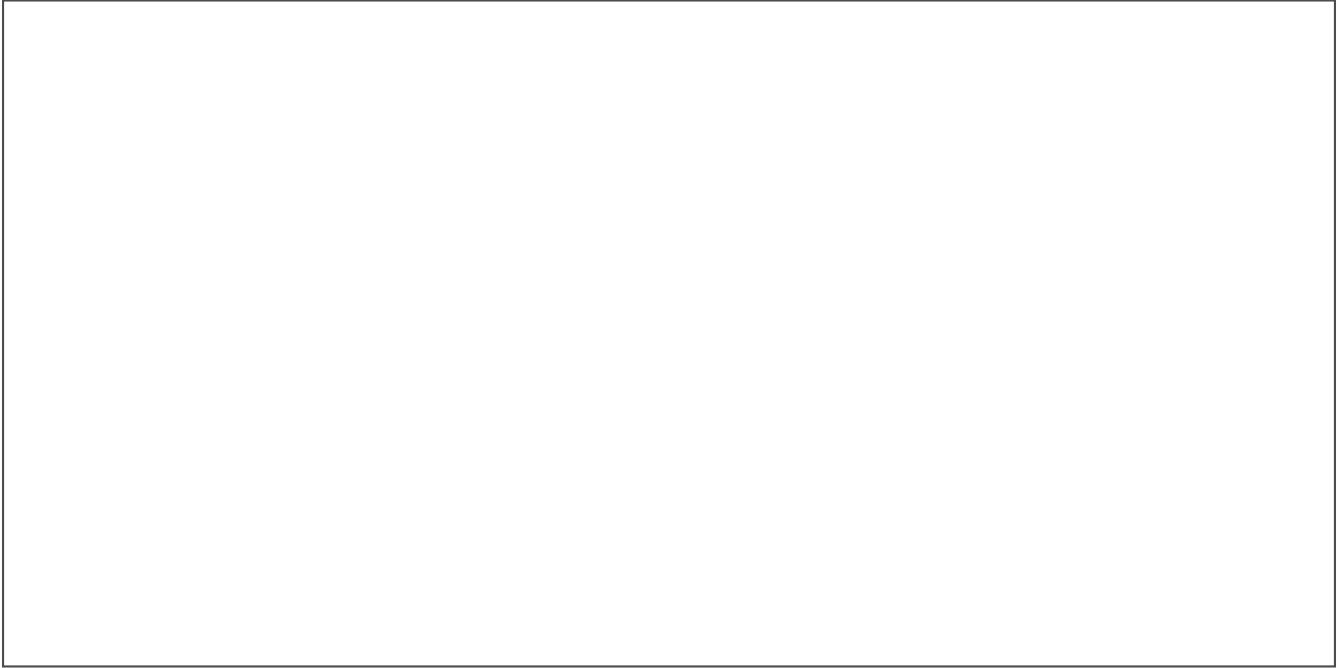


Illustration: framing, position, action, important object

Caption: exact text, or “None”

Dialogue: speaker and exact text, or “None”

Text inside the scene: signs, notes, labels, or “None”

What changes from panel 1

3 / Land

Show a consequence or a fresh meaning. Let the final image have room.

Sketch one drawable moment in the frame, or describe it in the lines below.

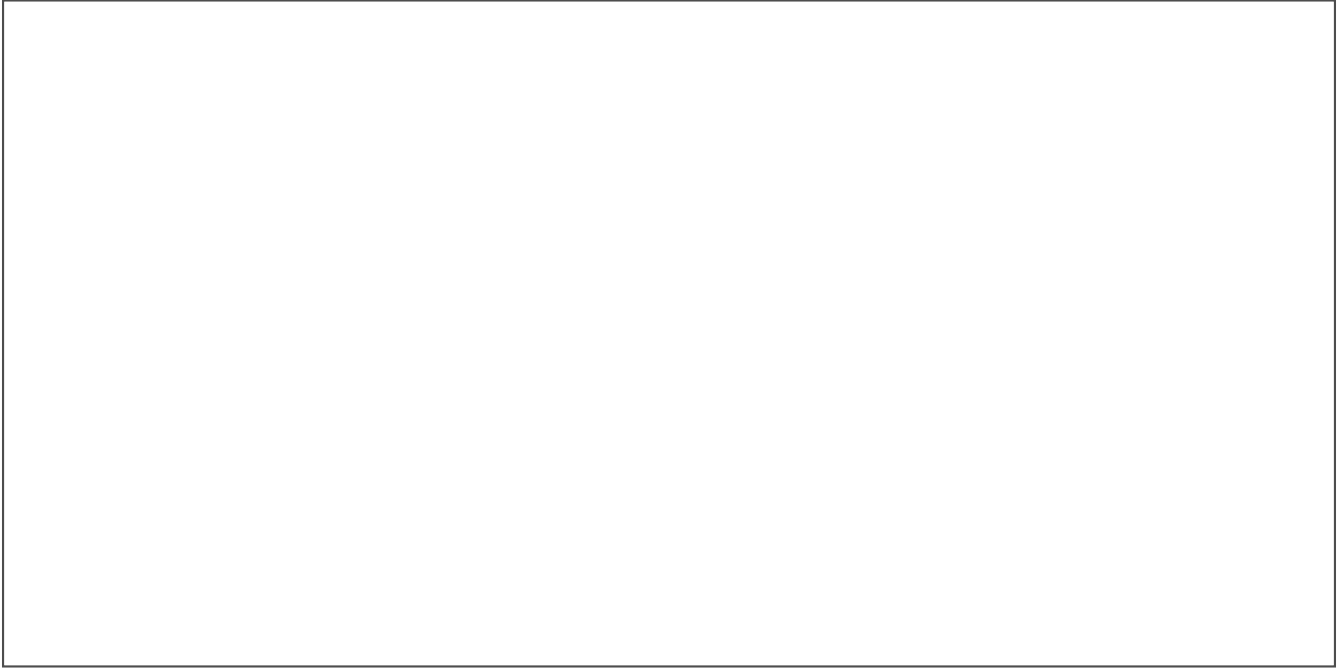


Illustration: framing, position, action, important object

Caption: exact text, or “None”

Dialogue: speaker and exact text, or “None”

Text inside the scene: signs, notes, labels, or “None”

What the ending leaves with the reader

Letter, describe, review

Collect every caption, speech line, sign, and note in reading order. Keep the final wording here so it stays consistent during layout.

Panel 1 / lettering transcript

Panel 2 / lettering transcript

Panel 3 / lettering transcript

Accessible description

Describe the three panels in order. Include visible actions, essential written messages, and the ending. Do not rely on color alone. Continue on another sheet if needed.

Your description

Final pass

- ☐ Each panel contains one clear, drawable moment.
- ☐ Something changes; the action makes sense without extra explanation.
- ☐ Recurring details stay consistent unless their change is intentional.
- ☐ All lettering is necessary and readable; the final image has space.
- ☐ Fictional events and any AI-created character are presented accurately.

Next production step / help or tools needed
