

# Anatomy of a Lunch Lady Book's Layout



**A**

**Establishing Shot** - Here, I am giving the reader a shot of the environment. Hector, Terrence and Dee are sneaking out of their cabins. If I wanted to confuse the reader, perhaps to give a sense of mystery to the character's whereabouts, I might begin with a close-up. But with this scene, I want to make it clear as to where the characters are.

**B**

**Close-up** - After establishing where the characters are, I pan in close to Dee, who is speaking. This helps the readers become more invested in the scene. As humans, we are naturally attracted to faces.

**C**

**Bird's Eye Point-of-View** - I've already established that the characters are outside, but here, I am visually communicating that they have arrived at the Mess Hall and are about to sneak in. A Bird's Eye Point-of-View is from up above.

**D**

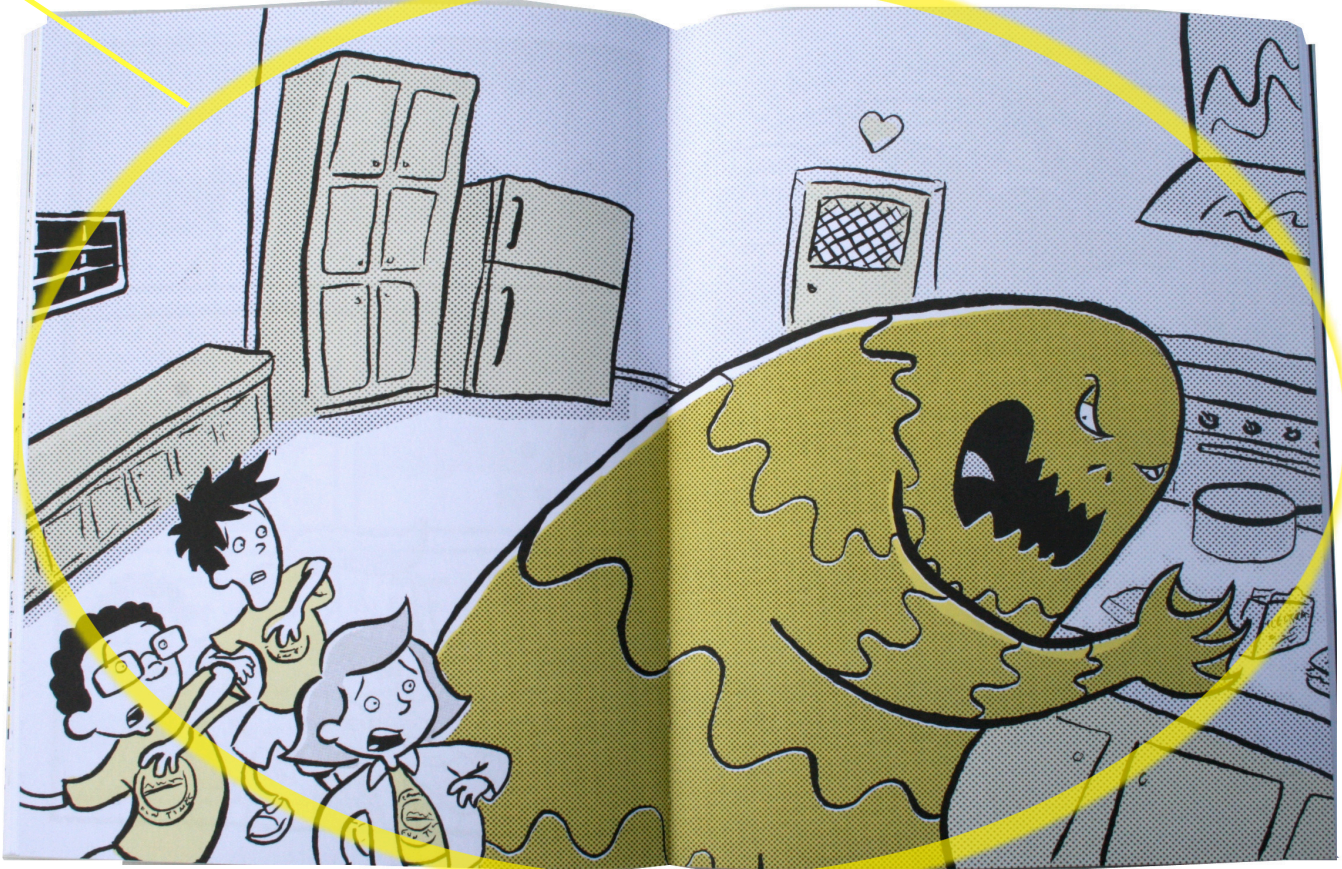
**Interior Scene** - I am visually establishing that our heroes are now inside.

**E**

**Mini-cliffhanger** - The bottom right hand side of every double-page spread is an opportunity to give a mini-cliffhanger. Dee is about to open the door and the kids see something horrific, but what is it? I want to motivate the reader as much as possible to want to turn the page. Since this is a bigger moment, the panel is bigger. In the previous panels, like B) and C), those are smaller moments in the scene, so the



F



F

**Reveal** - The reader turns the page to discover a swamp monster raiding the kitchen! This is such a big reveal that I've used both pages to show the action. I also use a bleed (when the art extends to the edge of the page) to enhance the scope of this moment. I've also designed the page so that the readers look at the images from left to right. Your eyes go to the kids, then to the monster. His arm is designed so that visually, you will want to turn the page. Again, another mini-cliff hanger—how will the monster react to being discovered?



Pages taken from *Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown*, book #4 in the Lunch Lady graphic novel series.