



Activity 4 : Bandes dessinées after 1990

► **Joann Sfar, *Le Chat du rabbin* (*The Rabbi's Cat*), Dargaud, 2002-15:**

Sfar was born into a Jewish family of North Africa. He devoted a series to describing the life of a rabbi, his daughter and their cat in Palestine at the beginning of 20th Century.

Here are two excerpts taken from the first volume:

<http://www.bedetheque.com/media/Planches/chatrabbin.jpg>

http://www.pixelcreation.fr/nc/galerie/voir/de_superman_au_chat_du_rabbin/de_superman_au_chat_du_rabbin/joann_sfar/

→ What kind of effect is produced by the fact that the cat tells the story?

→ What creates humour in the two pages?

→ Can you ascertain Sfar's view on Judaism and religions in general?

► **David B. *L'Ascension du haut mal* (*Epileptic*), L'Association, 1996-2003:**

This graphic autobiography narrates how the author experienced his brother's disease (severe epilepsy) and its impact on their family. Look at the following extracts.

'The disease invited itself into our family':

<http://a133.idata.over-blog.com/1/35/13/57/10-octobre/DavidB-Haut-Mal.jpg>

http://goodokbad.com/assets/images/books/epileptic_01.png

In the street:

http://www.hoodedutilitarian.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Ascension_regards.jpg

http://36.media.tumblr.com/8c799a191ef5b7413529804a52b7e90b/tumblr_migc0xRT8u1ru1sfvo11280.jpg

→ What do you think of David B.'s graphic style?

→ Looking more closely at each panel, what's the effect produced by the combination of images and **captions***? Given the above examples, what were young David's feelings about his brother's illness?

→ With this comic, in what way does David B. transform BDs (compare it with previous examples)?