AUTHORWINGS GUIDES | FREE KIT

Comic Book and Graphic Novel *Templates*

Print-ready guides for drawing comics by hand or digitally. Every page template marks the trim, the bleed and the safe area.

Page templates	3 sizes: 6 × 9, 7 × 10, 6.625 × 10.25 in. Blank page plus 8 panel layouts in each size	Pages 2 to 28
Front covers	Title, art and credit zones in each size	Pages 29 to 31
Page planner	Plan a 24-page book page by page	Page 32
Thumbnail sheet	Sketch the book small, spread by spread	Page 33
Character sheet	Turnaround, expressions and color swatches	Page 34
Print checklist	Tick before you upload or send to a printer	Page 35
Two-page spreads	Separate PDF (tabloid size) and PNG	aw-comic-spreads.pdf
PNG overlays	Transparent guide layers at 300 DPI for any drawing app	PNG folder
Webcomic canvas	800 px wide, slice line every 1,280 px	PNG folder

The three guide lines

Dashed red: bleed. 0.125 in outside the trim. Run edge art to here.
Solid blue: trim. Where the page is cut.
Dashed blue: safe area. 0.5 in inside the trim. Keep faces, balloons and page numbers inside.

How to print

Print at 100% (actual size), never "fit to page".
Pages fit US Letter and A4.
Light guide colors are easy to remove when you clean up a black-and-white scan.
Scan line art at 600 DPI, color at 300 DPI.

Which size? 6 × 9 and 7 × 10 in print on Amazon KDP and most printers. 6.625 × 10.25 in is the classic American comic size; it is not on Amazon KDP's trim list (as of October 2026), so use it with comic and offset printers.

Free for personal and commercial use. Please do not resell the templates.

BLANK PAGE | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

Free template by AuthorWings | authorwings.com/guides/graphic-novel-template

SPLASH PAGE | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

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TWO TIERS | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

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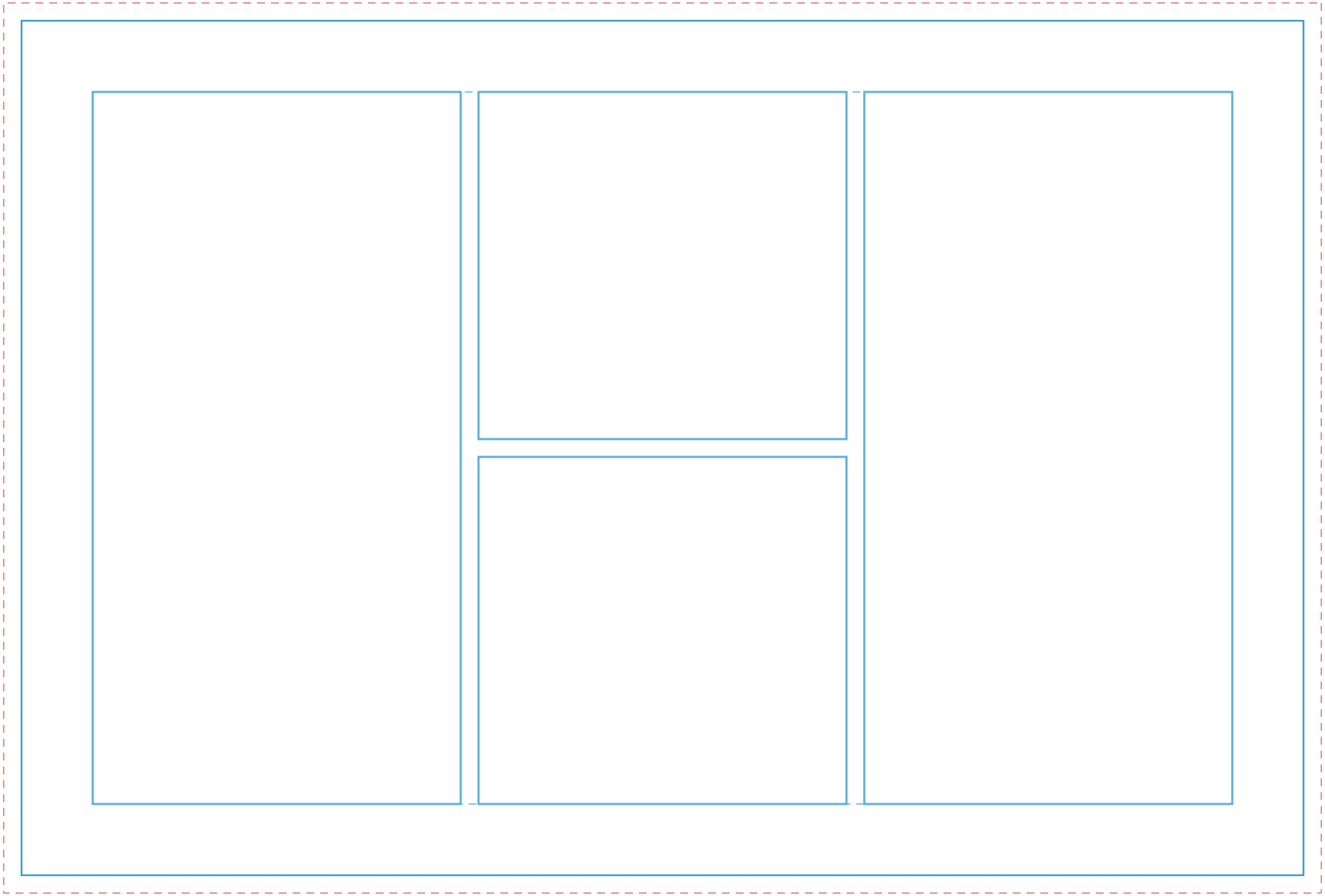

Free template by AuthorWings | authorwings.com/guides/graphic-novel-template

FOUR PANELS | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

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SIX-PANEL GRID | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

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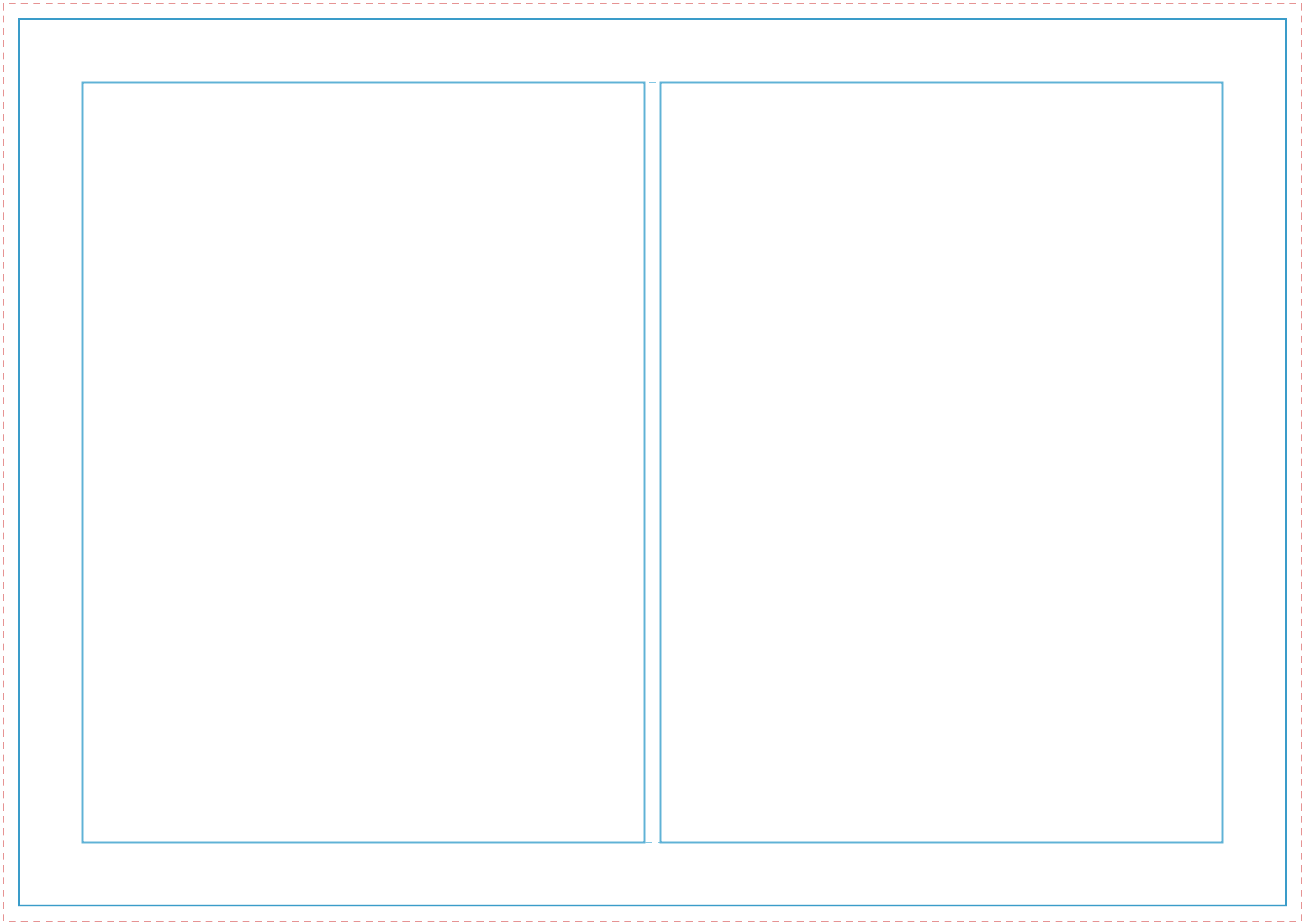

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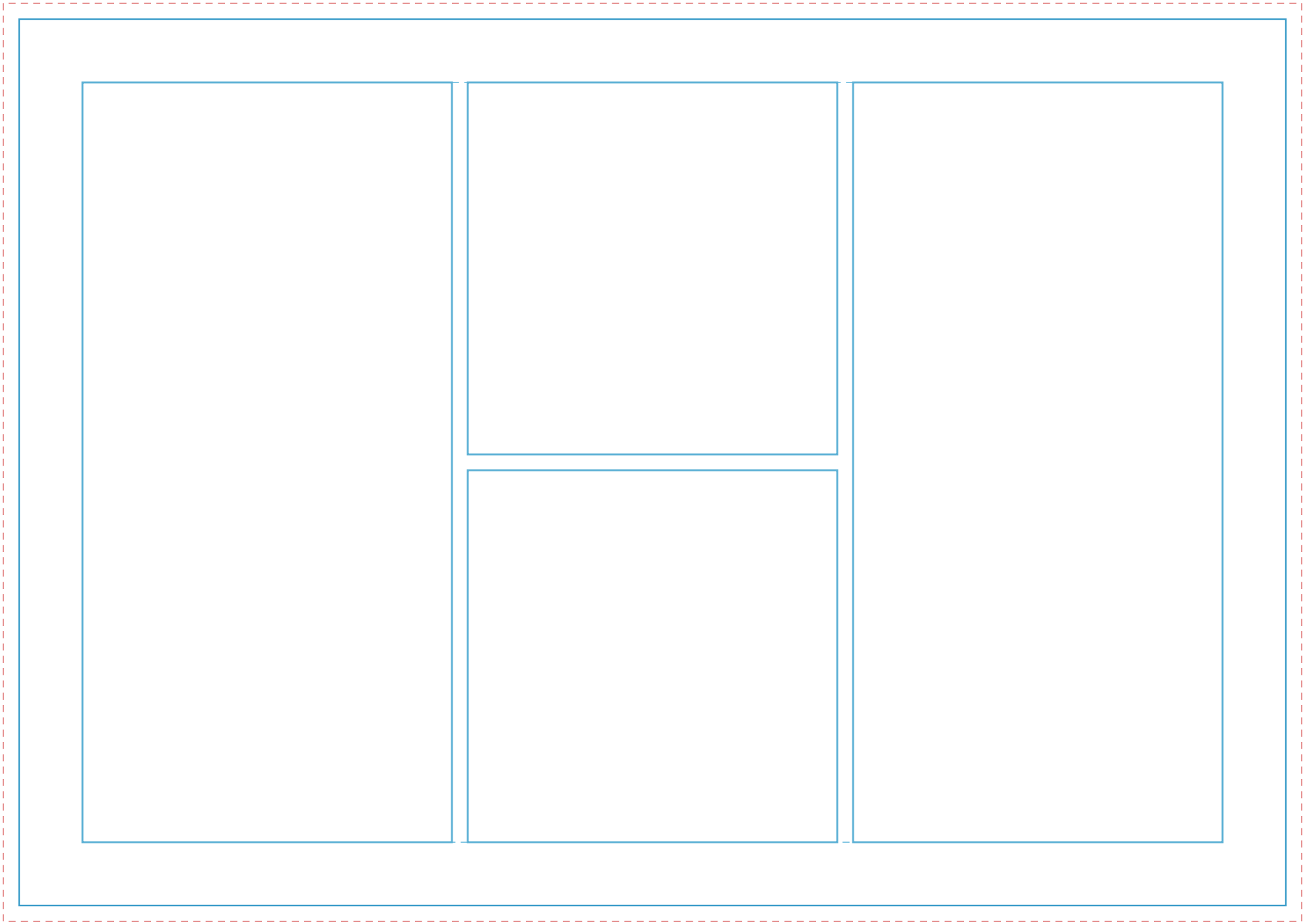

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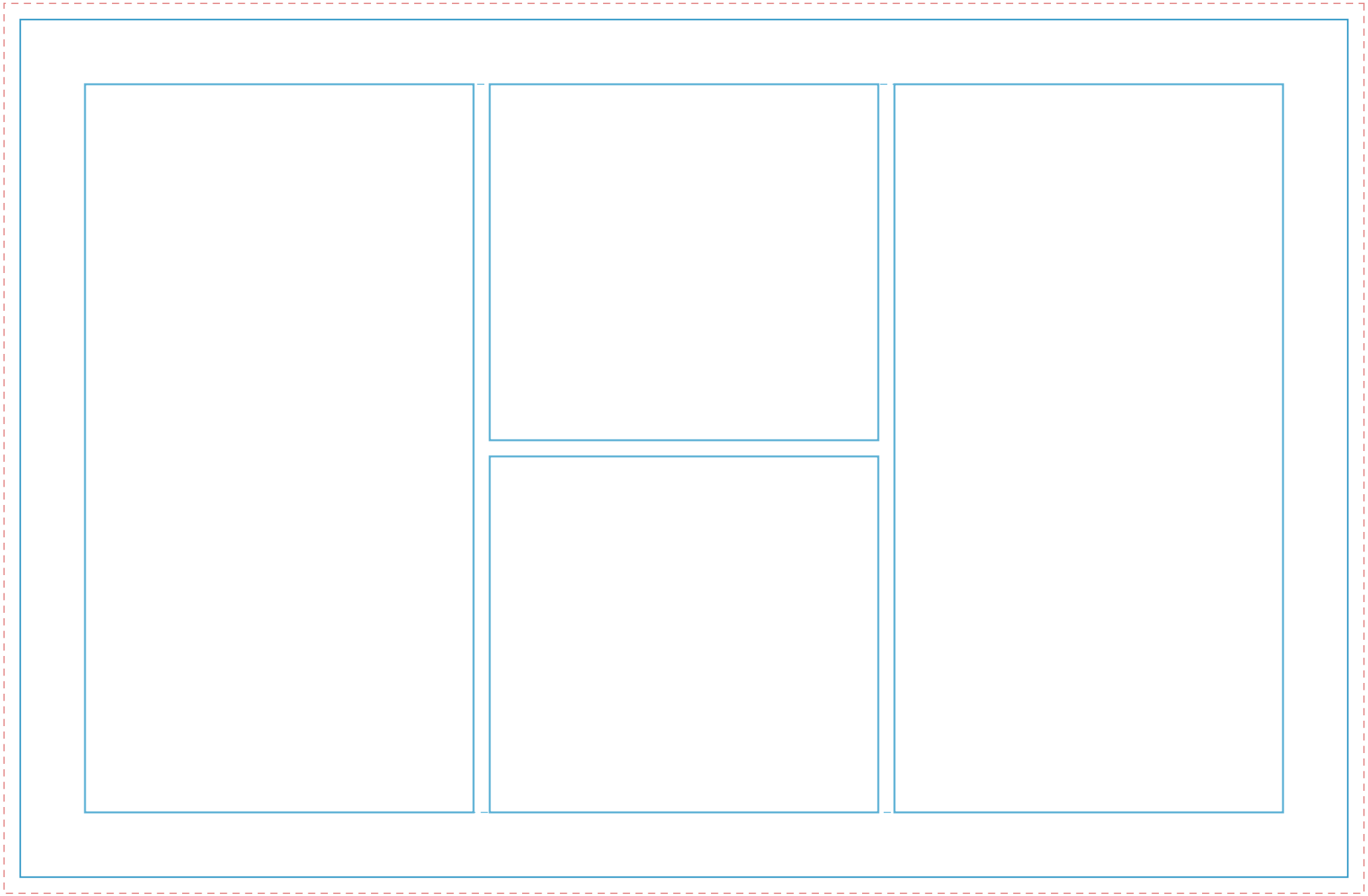

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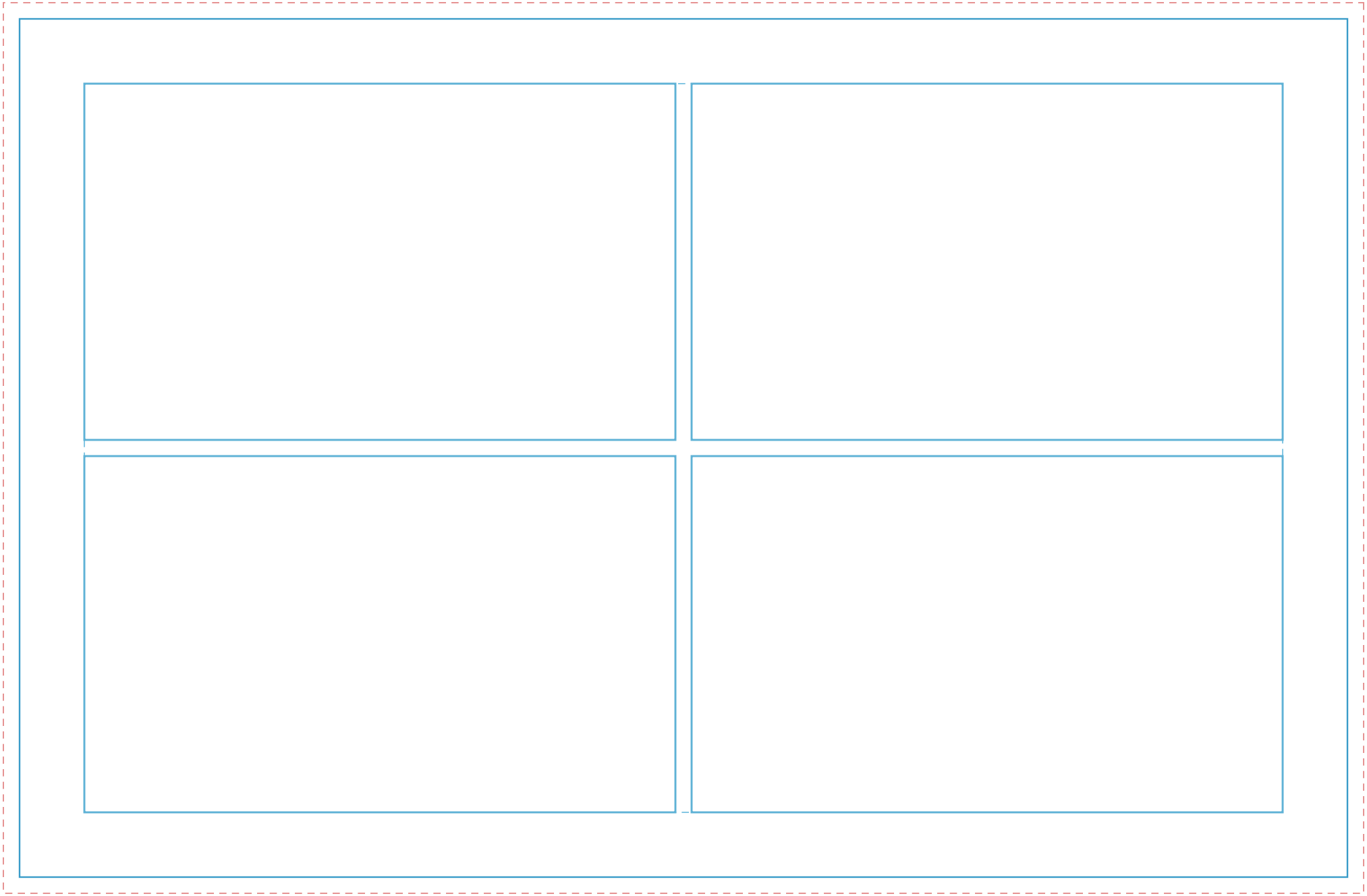

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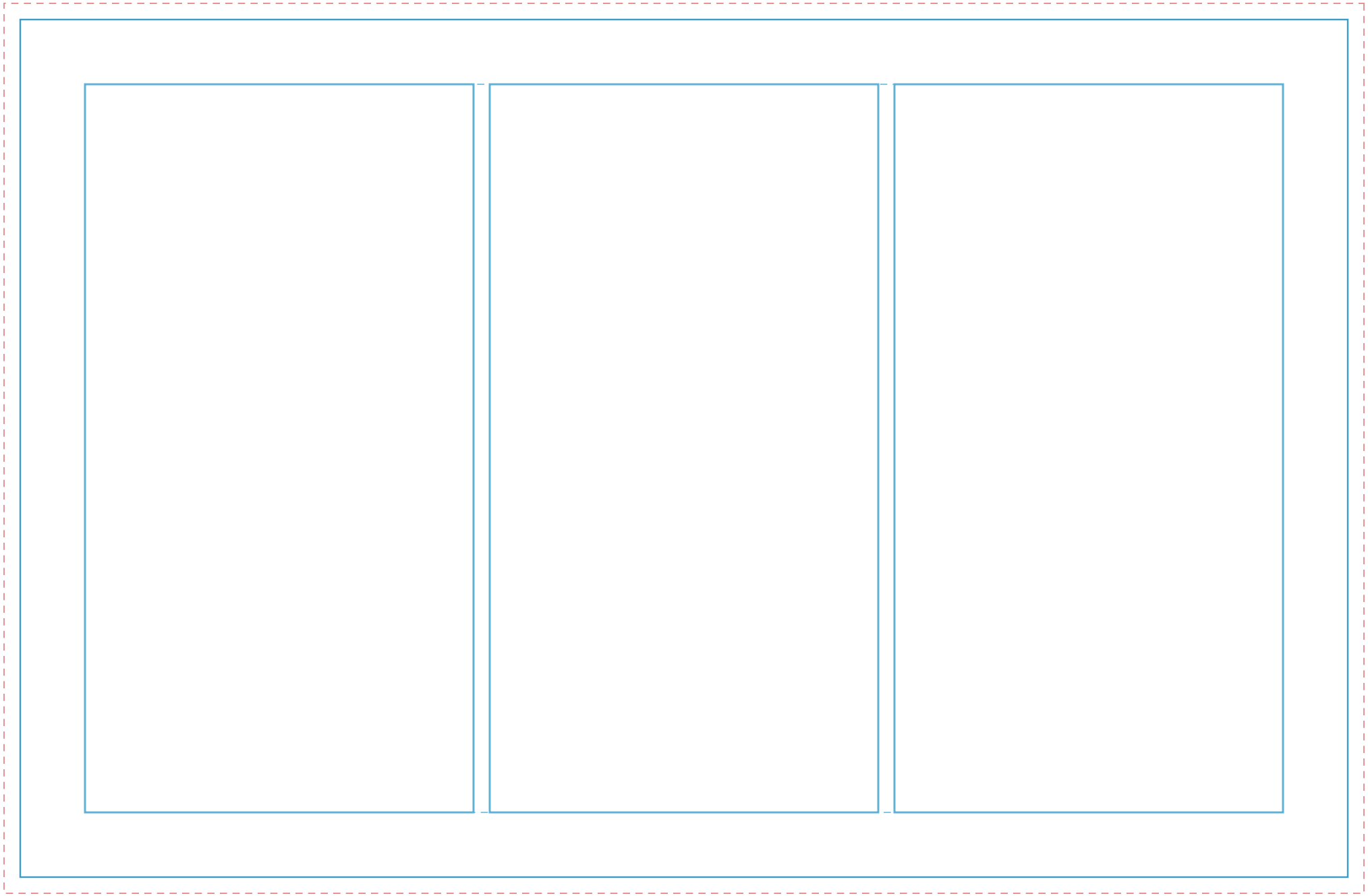

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FRONT COVER | Trim 6 × 9 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

TITLE AND LOGO

MAIN ART (can run to the bleed)

CREDITS, ISSUE NUMBER, PUBLISHER

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FRONT COVER | Trim 7 × 10 in | Bleed 0.125 in | Safe area 0.5 in | Print at 100% (actual size)

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Page planner 24 pages. Page 1 is a right-hand page in a printed book.

Tip: put big reveals on a left-hand page, so the reader only sees them after turning the page.

Page	Side	Story beat (what happens)	Panels	Reveal after the page turn
1	Right			
2	Left			
3	Right			
4	Left			
5	Right			
6	Left			
7	Right			
8	Left			
9	Right			
10	Left			
11	Right			
12	Left			
13	Right			
14	Left			
15	Right			
16	Left			
17	Right			
18	Left			
19	Right			
20	Left			
21	Right			
22	Left			
23	Right			
24	Left			

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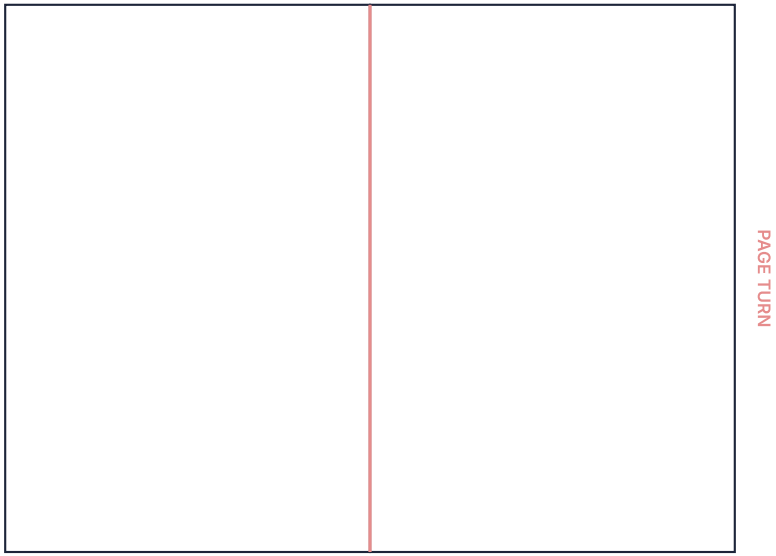
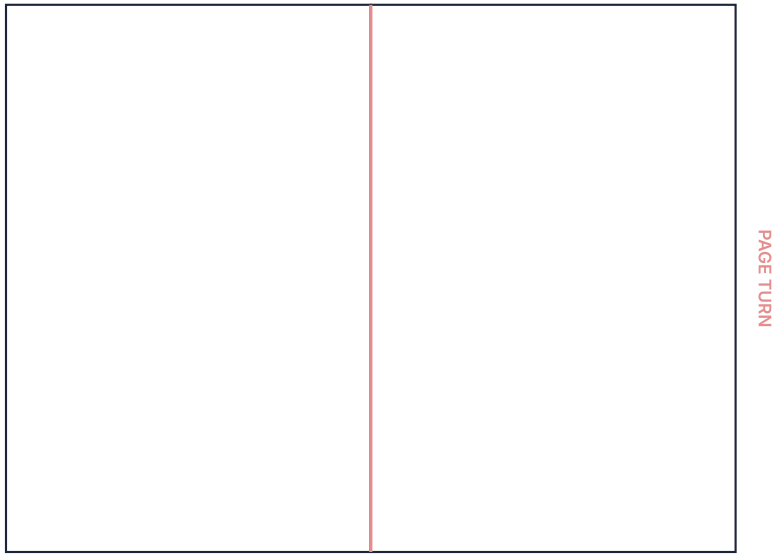
Thumbnail sheet

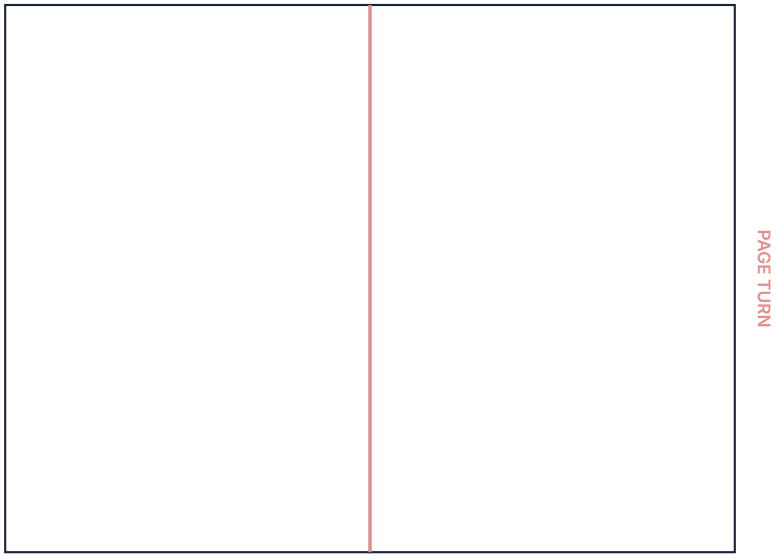
Sketch the book the way it is read: in spreads. Page 1 sits alone on the right; then 2 and 3, 4 and 5, and so on.



Left page p. ____ Right page p. ____



Left page p. ____ Right page p. ____



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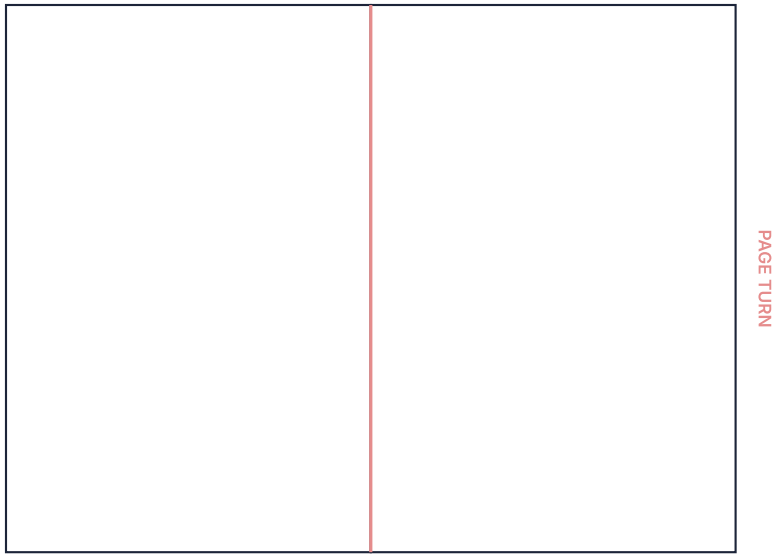

Left page p. ____ Right page p. ____

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Character sheet

Draw each view at the same height using the guide lines. One sheet per main character.

FRONT

SIDE

BACK

HAPPY

ANGRY

SAD

SURPRISED

SCARED

THINKING

Color #_____

Color #_____

Color #_____

Color #_____

Color #_____

Color #_____

Name:

Age and height:

Outfit and props:

Personality in three words:

Must stay the same on every page:

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Print checklist

SIZE

- [ ] The trim size is on your printer's list (KDP: 6 × 9 and 7 × 10 in work; 6.625 × 10.25 in does not)
- [ ] Every page uses the same size and orientation

BLEED AND SAFE AREA

- [ ] Art meant to reach the edge runs 0.125 in past the trim
- [ ] All text, faces and page numbers sit inside the safe area
- [ ] No key detail sits in the binding zone of a spread
- [ ] For KDP, the page file is 0.125 in wider and 0.25 in taller than the trim (no bleed on the inside edge)

PAGES

- [ ] Stapled comics: page count is a multiple of 4, covers included
- [ ] KDP paperbacks: at least 24 pages
- [ ] Page 1 is a right-hand page; reveals land after a page turn

IMAGE QUALITY

- [ ] Color pages at 300 DPI or more; black-and-white line art at 600 DPI
- [ ] Color mode matches what your printer asks for
- [ ] Guide layers are hidden or deleted before export

LETTERING

- [ ] Balloons read in the right order
- [ ] Print one page at actual size and check the text is easy to read
- [ ] Spelling checked twice, by two people if you can

FILES

- [ ] Exported as a print-ready PDF with fonts embedded
- [ ] File names in page order
- [ ] Cover built at full width once the page count is final

Printer rules change. Check your printer's current file guide before you upload. KDP figures as of October 2026.

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