



Graphic Novel Study Group
Study Guides

Krazy & Ignatz: A Mice, a Brick, a Lovely Night **By George Herriman**

Study guide by Jeff Lok

1. For a while in 1929, formatting in The New York Evening Journal left Herriman with a gaping hole in the center of his Sundays. He drew unrelated filler for them. This period encompasses some strips with, some without this. Comparing the two, did Herriman use this space effectively, or ineffectively?
2. Choose a page that works especially well. Explain why.
3. Choose a page that doesn't work well, or at all. Why not?
4. A lot of the conflict or humor inside the strip comes when a new character or characters, or side character appears on the scene, often passing through. Pick one instance of this, and show how Herriman's handling of the situation brings about high conflict or humor.
5. The love triangle between Krazy, Ignatz, and Officer Pupp is what most people talk about when they talk about Krazy Kat. Why the fuss?
6. Setting is terribly important to the mood of Krazy Kat. Choose one panel, and write about what mood the elements, composition, and style of drawing convey, independently of the writing or characters.
7. Is Krazy Kat dated?
8. Is Herriman's ample affection and aptitude at artful and any and all alliteration ever too much?
9. Chris Ware designed the Krazy & Ignatz volumes. In this case, 1929 – 30, did he capture the overarching mood of the strip with his book design?
10. A list of the 100 greatest cartoonists listed Herriman first. Schulz – voted second – agreed. Do you, based on this collection, or other Herriman you've read? If not, who'd you pick?