Caring Through Comics
A Selective Bibliography of Graphic Novels for Grades 6-12

Compiled by Karen Gavigan

*Click on the cover images to read more about each graphic novel

**Bullying**

The gripping story of young boy’s transformation from bullied ‘outsider’ to true manhood. Clinical social worker Zak Mucha offers the anchoring non-fiction essay, explaining in detail what the reader has just experienced (WorldCat)

**Coming of Age Stories**


Anya, embarrassed by her Russian immigrant family and self-conscious about her body, has given up on fitting in at school but falling down a well and making friends with the ghost there just may be worse. (WorldCat)

Clugston, Chynna. *Queen Bee*. 2005. New York: Scholastic Graphix. (Middle School and High School)

Haley is smart, funny, nice, and determined to be super-popular in her new middle school. (WorldCat)

*Meet Chloe Sacks: Thoughtful, artistic, and a junior at Georgia O'Keefe School for the Arts, nicknamed "Fashion High" for its trendy student body. Along with her best friends, Erika, Isabel, and MacKenzie, she's looking forward to a sparkling year of parties and romance. (WorldCat)*


*Four troubled boys, Guiliano, Stefano, Alberto, and Alex, form a band. They practice in a garage that Guilano's dad loaned them. When their amp blows right before the deadline for their demo tape, the boys become desperate to replace it and land themselves in more trouble than they know how to handle. (WorldCat)*


*While trying to figure out the meaning of life, Amelia learns that even when the world is scary and life is as mystifying as ever, some things, such as friends, do last. (WorldCat)*


*When Paige Turner and her family move to New York City from rural Virginia, she tries to make sense of her new life through her sketchbook, and it helps bring her true personality into the open, a process that is equal parts terrifying and rewarding. (WorldCat)*

Tara is forced to move in with her cousins after her house burns down. She faces a difficult adjustment while her mother is away trying to earn money. Interwoven with this story is that of Tara’s ancestors, who in 1859 were convinced by a mysterious stranger to put all their money into searching their property for gold. (WorldCat)


The hardships, dramas, and joys of seventh and eighth grade are presented in a collection of tales, illustrated by an array of graphic novelists, including Daniel Clowes and Ariel Schrag. (World Cat)


*Skim*’ is a not-slim would-be Wiccan goth who goes to a private girls’ school. When her classmate Katie is dumped by her boyfriend, who then kills himself, the entire school goes into mourning overdrive. The popular clique stars a club to boost school spirit, but Skim sinks into an ever-deepening depression. (WorldCat)


*From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself. (WorldCat)

*Loosely based on the author's life, chronicling his journey from childhood to adulthood, exploring the people, experiences, and beliefs that he encountered along the way.* (WorldCat)


*Dennis, the son of Chinese immigrants, yearns to play video games like his friends and, upon his strict father's death, becomes obsessed with them but later, realizing how his father sacrificed for him, he chooses a nobler path.* (WorldCat)

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**Eating Disorders**


*In this graphic novel dealing with anorexia, young Anna--压ured by media, friends, the workplace, personal relationships, and fashion trends--descends into a seemingly unending cycle of misery. And whenever she tries to climb out of the abyss, her own personal demon, Tyranny, is there to push her back in.* (WorldCat)


*This moving debut graphic novel about the pain of childhood recalls a not-too-distant time when girls flaunted their knock-off Esprit and shared best-friends' necklaces broken in half. A semi-autobiographical story in brief anecdotes.* (WorldCat)

This semi-autobiographical follow-up picks up where her debut "Escape from "Special!" leaves off: nonconformist Melissa is now in high school, coping with an anxiety-induced drug habit and an anorexic best friend. Even when the situation is not life or death, Melissa must negotiate the everyday problems that young adults face. (WorldCat)


In this book the author gives readers a harrowing look inside her battle with anorexia and bulimia through pictures and captions. (WorldCat)

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**Gangs**


Through shattering storytelling, Geoffrey Canada recreates his childhood world, one in which the “sidewalk” boys learned the codes of the block from their elders and were ranked - and to some degree protected - through the rituals of fist, stick, and knife. He gives a cogent, chilling analysis of how, through an unforeseen chain of consequences set in motion in the 1960s by New York Governor Rockefeller’s drug laws, everything changed on the streets. (WorldCat)

A graphic novel based on the true story of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year old African American gang member from Chicago who shot a young girl and was then shot by his own gang members. (WorldCat)

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**Homelessness**


Antony Horton, an African-American homeless man living in a subway tunnel, describes his life on the streets. (WorldCat)

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**Homosexuality**


Told entirely in sequential art, here is the story of the life-changing friendship between the author, a cartoonist from Long Island, and Pedro Zamora, an HIV-positive AIDS activist, which was filmed day by day on MTV's Real World San Francisco. (WorldCat)
Mental Issues


After putting her fist through the glass, seventeen-year-old Stacy Black checks into a mental hospital. Stacy hates it there but despite herself slowly realizes she has to face the reasons for her depression to stop from self-destructing. (WorldCat)

Sickness / Death


Brian Fies is a freelance journalist whose mother was diagnosed with lung cancer. As he and his two sisters struggled with the effects of her illness and her ongoing recovery from treatment, Brian processed the experience in his journal, which took the form of words and pictures. (WorldCat)


Telling his story in a graphic-novel style, the prize-winning children’s author depicts a childhood from hell in this searing yet redemptive memoir. (WorldCat)