Graphic Novels and Graphic Non-Fiction in Libraries: Promoting Reading (Comics in Arabic)
GRAPHIC NOVELS
FOR PRE-READERS
The Best Graphic Novels for Reluctant Readers

By Hannah Tierweiler Hudson

Ten graphic novels and illustrated books that promise to draw in even the most reluctant reader

Grades
PreK–K, 1–2, 3–5, 6–8

1. **Drawing From Memory** by Allen Say
Caldecott winner Allen Say tells how he became an artist in this fascinating memoir, which also contains photographs and images of the work that has inspired him.
Grades 5–8.
The Research Behind Graphic Novels and Young Learners

By Leslie Morrison, CTD Summer Leapfrog Coordinator

Over the last decade, graphic novels have become a popular format in classrooms, partly due to their appeal to reluctant readers. More recently, a growing body of research, focused on how the brain processes the combination of images and text, indicates that graphic novels are also excellent resources for advanced learners.

When students read visual narratives, the activity in the brain is similar to how readers comprehend text-based sentences. However, when students learn to read graphic novels with an analytical eye, depth and complexity are added to the reading process.

With graphic novels, students use text and images to make inferences and synthesize information, both of which are abstract and challenging skills for readers. Images, just like text, can be interpreted in many different ways, and can bring nuances to the meaning of the story. In this form of literature, the images and the text are of equal importance—the text would not fully make sense without the images, and the reverse is true as well.

https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/blog/research-behind-graphic-novels-and-young-learners
Suggested Reading

Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels Welcome Everyone Into the Reading Conversation

By Kyle Redford, YCDC Education Editor

Every teacher and librarian has witnessed the universal appeal of the graphic novel. They are the books with the tattered covers crowding the “hold” shelf and the books that generate the longest wait lists. Recently, the popularity of graphic novels has noticeably grown, and publishers have responded with a profusion of options for readers of all ages.

In our fifth grade class library, graphic novels are the grand equalizers. They invite all levels of readers into reading conversations. Since everyone can read graphic novels, everyone can talk
6th Grade Graphic Novel Club at Fox: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Nov. 6, Fox Library. Do you love comics and graphic novels? Join the Graphic Novel Book Club to meet other kids who do, and talk about some great stories and artwork. On Nov. 6, the group will discuss “Lowriders in Space,” by Cathy Camper. Register online at https://graphicnovelclubnovember.eventbrite.com, then pick up a copy of the book at the library. The club is open to students in grade six. Please read the book before coming to the discussion.
Summer Learning Programs have kicked off nationwide at libraries. During the summer months, children can pick their own books that they are pumped about reading! A great way to beat the summer slide is to let children pick their own
Interested in hosting a comic con at your library, but unsure where to begin? In June 2015, the Enoch Pratt Free Library hosted its first Mini-Comic Con. We talked to Justin Switzer, the young adult librarian who organized the event, about the joys and challenges of putting it all together. View the event program.

Rebecca Starr: Tell me about the Mini-Comic Con’s origins. What inspired you to put this together?

Justin Switzer: I have been aware of libraries hosting comic cons for years now, most notably the Toronto Comic Arts Festival. However, I knew it would take a lot of time to plan and implement, so I didn’t even entertain the idea until I was promoted to a full-time librarian. With the full support of my supervisor, I was able to plan out an event that could be held annually. My supervisor was a driving force behind the idea of hosting a comic con at the library, but having personal control over the program, I decided to shape it into something that was more educationally beneficial for young people. I wanted to offer young people a glimpse into a life they could potentially have, a life of making video games, writing books and doing art that they love and appreciate.

I myself am an avid comic book reader and have enjoyed them since the earliest memories of my life. I can honestly say that, without comics, I would not have discovered a pleasure for reading. Comics and graphic novels have opened the door to reluctant readers becoming lifelong readers and learners, and it was with this idea in mind that I began planning the event.

RS: Let’s talk timeline. How long did this take you to plan? How far in advance did
The Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table of the American Library Association is dedicated to supporting library staff in all aspects of engaging with graphic novels and comics, including collection development, programming, and advocacy. For more information connect with GNCRT on Twitter: @libcomix; Instagram: @libcomix; Facebook: ALA Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table group or the GNCRT ALA Connect page.
Graphic Non-Fiction
Anyas Ghost

Anyas could really use a friend. But her new BFF isn't kidding about the "forever" part . . . Of all the things Anyas expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century.

Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anyas's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend—even a ghost—is just what she needs. Or so she thinks.

Author: Vera Brosgol
Illustrator: Vera Brosgol
Translator: Samar Al Kotob
Antara

Torn between a lifelong conflict, Antara struggles between being labeled a courageous hero or a slave. However, his color cannot determine his status anymore and he refuses the humiliation.

Since Antara’s youth, his tribe usually gained victories due to his strength and battle leadership. Despite that, his slave status never left him, but when his lover Abla is prevented from being with him, Antara decides to end this injustice forever.

Author: Moemen Helmy
Illustrator: Ashraf Ghori