



Graphic Novels, Manga, and Anime: What's New and Cool for Your Library
ALA's Annual Conference, June 2006
RECOMMENDED MANGA SERIES

FOR PRETEENS AND YOUNGER TEENS

ANGELIC LAYER - CLAMP (TOKYOPOP)

In the future, the most popular game in the world is Angelic Layer. Contestants must raise and train their own 'Angels' (or fighting dolls) to compete in tournaments. Sixth grader Misaki Suzuhara has her speed-type angel, Hikaru, and she just might stand a chance at winning the championship. This is a five-volume series.

BARON THE CAT RETURNS - Aoi Hiiragi (VIZ/Studio Ghibli)

When awkward schoolgirl Haru rescues a cat on her way home from school one day, she is drawn into a world inhabited entirely by talking cats—and recruited to be the next Cat Princess! Only the dapper cat Baron and his friends, a magical crow and a comical fat cat, along with a friend from Haru's past, can help her return home. This is a standalone one-volume story.

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA - CLAMP (TOKYOPOP)

Average fourth grader Sakura becomes a Cardcaptor thanks to the magical Cerberus, and her job is to recapture Clow Cards that had escaped an enchanted book in her father's library; she must do so before the magical cards wreak havoc in the world. There are two six-volume series available: **CARDCAPTOR SAKURA** and **CARDCAPTOR SAKURA: MASTER OF THE CLOW**.

CASTLE IN THE SKY - Hayao Miyazaki (VIZ/Studio Ghibli)

Pirates greedy for treasure and secret agents hungry for power are both chasing Sheeta, a young girl who wears a mysterious blue stone around her neck. The stone's power makes Sheeta defy gravity and float down into the life of Pazu, a tough young orphan boy inventor. They set out to find the legendary castle in the sky. This five-volume full-color series uses screen captures from the anime.

D.N.ANGEL - Yukiru Yugisaki (TOKYOPOP)

Poor Daisuke - he suffers a weird condition: when he sees his crush, Risa, he transforms into his alter ego, phantom thief Dark Mousy, who transforms back into Daisuke when he sees HIS crush, Risa's twin Riku. How can Daisuke get Risa to fall in love with him if she can't see him? This eleven-volume series is scheduled to conclude in 2006.

DRAGON BALL Z - Akira Toriyama (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

After years of training and adventure, Goku has become Earth's ultimate warrior. And his son, Gohan, shows even greater promise. But the strikes are increasing as even deadlier enemies threaten the planet. Time travelers, aliens, deities and the mighty Super Saiyans clash over the fate of the universe. This is a 26-volume series that follows **DRAGON BALL**.

HIKARU NO GO - Yumi Hotta (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

After stumbling across a haunted Go board, irresponsible Hikaru Shindo discovers that the spirit of a master player has taken up residence in his consciousness. In his pursuit of the "Divine Move," Fujiwara-no-Sai awakens in Hikaru an untapped instinctive genius for the game, and that sparks a rivalry with Go prodigy Akira

Toya. This is an ongoing series.

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE - Hayao Miyazaki (VIZ/Studio Ghibli)

Young, plain Sophie (as she thinks of herself) runs afoul of the Witch of the Waste when a handsome young wizard helps her. Cursed into old age by the Witch, Sophie leaves home to find the "evil" wizard Howl to reverse the curse; but she finds herself taking care of his moving castle and befriending the others who live with Howl and try to help him. This four-volume full-color series uses screen captures from the anime.

KAMIKAZE KAITO JEANNE - Arina Tanemura (DC/CMX)

By day, Kusakabe Maron is an ordinary high school girl, but by night, she is Kamikaze Kaito Jeanne, the reincarnation of Joan of Arc, on a mission to hunt down demon-possessed paintings and exorcise the evil spirits. Unfortunately, her work puts her into conflict with the authorities, who view her as a mysterious vandal.

MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO - Hayao Miyazaki (VIZ/Studio Ghibli)

Eleven-year-old Satsuki and her irreplaceable little sister Mei move with their father to the countryside to be close to their mother in a hospital. They meet friendly neighbors, and find a huge camphor tree that holds a fantastic magical secret. This four-volume full-color series uses screen captures from the anime.

ONE PIECE - Eiichiro Oda (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

When pirate wannabe Monkey D. Luffy gains the power to stretch like rubber (and can never swim again), he gathers a motley crew of other pirate wannabes to seek the "One Piece," said to be the greatest treasure in the world. This is an ongoing series.

PRESIDENT DAD - Ju-Yeon Rhim (TOKYOPOP)

Ami Won is a kind of klutzy teen who lost her mother years before; now her widowed father has been elected President of Korea! And if that wasn't bad enough, Ami's scheming aunt wants to take over as "First Lady." This series is scheduled for seven volumes.

PRINCE OF TENNIS - Takeshi Konomi (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

Seventh-grader Ryoma Echizen joins the Seishun Academy's tough tennis team and his incredible talent and skill stuns his upperclassmen teammates. But can he develop people skills to get along with his teammates and classmates?

SPIRITED AWAY - Hayao Miyazaki (VIZ/Studio Ghibli)

Ten-year-old Chihiro finds herself in a strange place when her parents get lost on their move to a new home in the suburbs. When they follow a tunnel and discover a deserted theme park, her parents eat enchanted food and become pigs, and now Chihiro must find a way to reverse the enchantment and get back to her world.

TOWER OF THE FUTURE - Saki Hiwatari (DC/CMX)

Takeru's life takes a strange turn when his dying mother reveals a half-sister he didn't know existed; then a strange young boy appears, claiming to be a warrior reborn to battle against evil.

TSUBASA: RESERVOIR CHRONICLES - CLAMP (Del Rey Manga)

In an alternate reality, Sakura is the Princess of Clow, and Syaoran is her childhood friend. When Sakura loses her memories that become magical feathers that scatter throughout the dimensions, Syaoran and his friends set out on a quest through the worlds to retrieve Sakura's memory. Fans of CLAMP will enjoy the references to their past manga hits.

ULTRA MANIAC - Wataru Yoshizumi (VIZ/Shojo Beat)

At first glance, Nina Sakura seems like a typical teenage girl, but she's actually a transfer student from a witch school in another dimension! Now enrolled at a middle school in Japan, Nina is hoping to improve her grades, make some friends and practice love spells on her unsuspecting new classmates. She'll have to study hard, for

her spells tend to backfire!

WHAT'S MICHAEL? - Makoto Kobayashi (Dark Horse Comics)

What's Michael? He's a cat, the quintessential cat, born to drive humans crazy with his antics. The stories in this series of anthology volumes range from totally realistic cat behavior to utterly fantastic flights of whimsy. Michael's human foils include housewives, salaryman workers, and hapless Yakuza gangsters.

WHISTLE! - Daisuke Higuchi (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

Sho Kazamatsuri wants one thing - to be the best soccer player. He transferred to Josui Junior High School in order to be able to play, because he's not very good - yet. Despite a disastrous beginning at his new school, Sho becomes the spirited leader of the soccer team. This is an ongoing series.

YOTSUBA&! - Kiyohiko Azuma (ADV Manga)

Cute but clueless little Yotsuba moves into a new town with her single father, and she soon turns the neighborhood upside down and inside out as she discovers doorbells, air conditioners, playground swings, and the joys of hunting cicadas in the summertime. There are currently three volumes.

FOR OLDER TEENS

AZUMANGA DAIOH - Kiyohiko Azuma (ADV Manga)

Hilarious and episodic stories depict the high school life of students in one homeroom - wild Tomo, hair-triggered Yomi, ditzy Osaka, brash Kagura, cute and incredibly young gifted Chiyo (except in P.E.), and athletic, girly Sakaki survive ditzy teachers, sports days, pop quizzes, and summer vacations together.

BAREFOOT GEN - Keiji Nakazawa (Last Gasp)

Nakazawa fictionalizes his own childhood trauma, depicting the direct aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima and the effects on everyday people who survived the initial blast.

BANANA FISH - Akimi Yoshida (VIZ/Shojo)

Ash Lynx, a runaway raised by a criminal, is a seventeen-year-old stone cold killer who rejects the world offered by Papa "Dino" Golzine and tries to make his own way out of the vice world. Harsh violence, drugs, murder - it's all in a day's work.

BECK: MONGOLIAN CHOP SQUAD - Harold Sakuishi (TOKYOPOP)

Shy, somewhat neurotic teen Yukio (called Koyuki by his crush, Izumi-chan) finds his life turned upside down when he meets wild and unpredictable Ryusuke, who has just come from America and has a rock-and-roll band named after his Frankenstein-like patched dog, Beck. Hot music, hotter girls, it's all part of Koyuki's new life.

BLEACH - Tite Kubo (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

Ichigo was born with the ability to see ghosts, and he becomes a Soul Reaper when a malevolent spirit attacks his family. Now Ichigo dedicates himself to protect the innocent and help the tortured spirits find peace.

BOYS BE - Masahiro Itabashi (TOKYOPOP)

This is an anthology series of short stories featuring romance from the boy's point of view. Secret crushes, two best friends falling for the same girl, the competition for chocolate-giving and receiving on Valentine's Day - readers will find these and more in this continuing series.

BUDDHA - Osamu Tezuka (Vertical)

This series retells the life of Buddha from before his birth, and of the people whose lives touched his, in a masterwork from the "Godfather of manga."

CANTARELLA - You Higuri (Go! Comi)

This tells the story of Cesare Borgia, of the infamous Borgia family who lived in Renaissance-era Italy. Cesare sets out on a quest for power that threatens to set his world on fire in a continuing story that combines tragedy, romance, dark fantasy, and history.

CERES: CELESTIAL LEGEND - Yuu Watase (VIZ/Shojo)

On their sixteenth birthday, twins Aya and Aki learn their fates: Aki is to inherit the family fortune, while Aya must die. But the power of the celestial maiden Ceres has awakened in Aya, and she won't go down easily.

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL - Eiji Nonaka (ADV Manga)

Takashi deliberately messed up his high school entrance exams in a misguided attempt to support an academically-challenged friend, and now he finds himself at Cromartie High School, a melting pot of underachievers, bullies, misfits, and other dregs of society. Surviving each day means dealing with foul-mouthed robots, guys who look like Freddie Mercury, and other strangeness.

CRIMSON HERO - Takanashi Mitsuba (VIZ/Shojo Beat)

Fifteen-year-old Nobara cares only about volleyball, and she's an excellent player; but she faces opposition from her family, who want her to inherit the role of "young mistress," serving rich customers at the family's Japanese restaurant.

DEATH NOTE - Tsugumi Ohba (VIZ/Shonen Jump Advanced)

Brilliant and bored high school senior Light finds a shinigami's notebook, which gives him the power to kill people by visualizing their faces and writing their names in the Death Note. When he starts using the book to kill criminals, the Japanese National Police start to investigate, and the brilliant but eccentric young detective known only as L leads the investigation.

FIREFIGHTER! DAIGO OF FIRE COMPANY M - Masahito Soda (VIZ/Action)

Daigo became a firefighter right after high school because he wanted to impress his teacher, but despite a rocky start, he has an instinctive gift for fighting fire. His offbeat methods don't always impress trainers and confuse his fellow firefighters.

FLAME OF RECCA - Nobuyuki Anzai (VIZ/Action)

Sixteen-year-old Recca thought becoming a ninja was just a child's dream, until he discovers he has inherited ninja powers, including the ability to wield fire. Now the ninja geek has to train and learn how to use his power, and protect Yanagi, the girl who can heal the sick.

FROM FAR AWAY - Kyoko Hikawa (VIZ/Shojo)

On her way home from school, teenager Noriko suddenly finds herself in a strange land where she can't understand the language. Rescued by young warrior Izark, Noriko must find her way and learn about the prophetic power she has and how to use it to save the world.

FRUITS BASKET - Natsuki Takaya (TOKYOPOP)

Homeless orphan Tohru finds shelter with the Sohma family, then she discovers their secret - each member transforms into an animal of the Asian zodiac when hugged by a member of the opposite sex. She tries to keep their secret even as she attends school and makes friends, and she tries to help bitter Kyo, whose animal form is a cat, an outcast who can never join the zodiac.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST - Hiromu Arakawa (VIZ/Action)

Brothers Edward and Alphonse dabbled in alchemy to gain power, but things went wrong and Edward lost an arm and a leg, while Alphonse became nothing but a soul in a suit of armor. Edward works for the military-

alchemical complex, but he really seeks the Philosopher's Stone to save his brother. Others seek it for their own power.

GALS! - Mihona Fuji (DC/CMX)

In this ongoing series, self-styled Kogal queen Ran and her friends just want to hang out in Shibuya, shop, have fun, and scam meals off gullible guys. But dirty old men, rival kogals, and street gangs threaten their neighborhood. Ran calls on her innate toughness (her family is full of cops) to help her friends and keep Shibuya safe.

GENSHIKEN - Kio Shimoku (Del Rey Manga)

Among the incoming freshmen, Kanji wants to join an otaku (anime fan) club, while Saki tries to keep her boyfriend Kousaka out. When both boys join Genshiken: the Society for the Study of Modern Culture, Saki must join too, and they experience cosplay, videogaming, conventions, and more aspects of the otaku life.

GHOST HUNT - Fuyumi Ono and Shiho Inada (Del Rey Manga)

High school student Mai becomes the reluctant assistant to Kazuya Shibuya, the handsome owner of Shibuya Psychic Research (Mai nicknames him Naru for being a narcissist), and they investigate paranormal goings-on first at her school, then at a haunted house, and other places.

HANA-KIMI - Hisaya Nakajo (VIZ/Shojo)

Track and field star Mizuki disguises herself as a boy and transfers to an all-boys' high school to be close to her idol, high jumper Izumi. But when she ends up becoming his roommate, Mizuki must keep her secret everywhere.

HERE IS GREENWOOD - Yukie Nasu (VIZ/Shojo)

Kazuya leaves a bad home situation to attend Ryokuto Academy, a prestigious all-boy boarding school; but when he arrives at Greenwood dorm, he is assigned to a room with a cross-dressing girl named Shun. This nine-volume series just concluded in 2006.

IRON WOK JAN! - Shinji Saijyo (DR Masters)

Here's a series for fans of the Iron Chef television show on the Food Network. Jan is a hotshot chef in a Chinese restaurant in Tokyo and he competes with other chefs in wild cooking competitions that make Iron Chef look totally tame. Crazy cooking action and strange recipes abound in this continuing series.

KARE KANO - Masami Tsuda (TOKYOPOP)

Vain model student Yukino meets intelligent, popular Soichiro when they start high school. She hates him for "stealing" the top student seat from her, but then Soichiro says he loves her! There's plenty of high school romance and academic hijinks in this continuing series.

KEKKAISHI - Yellow Tanabe (VIZ/Action)

Junior high school student Yoshimori also works in the family business as a "kekkaishi" - a demon hunter - even though he'd much rather become a pastry chef. His family feuds with the Yukimuras, who are also kekkaishi; their daughter Tokine is Yoshimori's rival even as she is his friend, and together they battle demons and deal with the family feud.

LAMENT OF THE LAMB - Kei Toume (TOKYOPOP)

After his mother's death, Kazuna meets his long-lost sister Chizuna and discovers they share the family's curse - a disease that will turn them into vampires. This is a completed seven-volume series.

LIFE - Keiko Suenobu (TOKYOPOP)

Ayumu, a struggling student, starts to cut herself to stay alert while studying for the all-important high school entrance exams. When her best friend rejects her and she starts high school alone, Ayumu continues to cut herself to ease her emotional pain. But will her new friends cause even more trouble?

LOVE ROMA - Toyoda Minoru (Del Rey Manga)

When Hoshino sees Negishi for the first time - in class - he asks her to be his girlfriend in front of everyone. She actually agrees, even though she thinks Hoshino is a bit strange; he's utterly blunt and honest and sometimes a bit embarrassing.

MERUPURI - Matsuri Hino (VIZ/Shojo Beat)

Airi's heirloom mirror turns out to be magical, which she only learns when she loses it on the way to school and a young boy named Aram, from a magical kingdom, pops out. Airi's modest ambitions of finding a good husband and living a comfortable, quiet life may now be confounded. This four-volume series concluded in 2006.

MONSTER - Naoki Urasawa (VIZ/Signature)

Brilliant surgeon Kenzo Tenma risked his career to save the life of a critically injured young boy, only to learn later that the boy is a cold killer. Tenma becomes the suspect when a string of murders benefits his career, but he suspects Johan of the killings. Years later, Tenma travels to Germany to track down Johan, who has become a serial killer.

NANA - Ai Yazawa (VIZ/Shojo Beat)

Nana Komatsu has moved to Tokyo in hopes of finding love. Nana Osaki has come to Tokyo determined to become a rock 'n' roll superstar. Then the two Nanas meet and become best friends as they each pursue their dreams.

NARUTO - Masashi Kishimoto (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

In the village of Konohagakure, orphan Naruto is determined to become the greatest ninja in the land. He'll have to pass the tough tests in ninja school first, and also deal with classmates and enemies who want to see him fail because he houses a nine-tailed fox demon that is sealed inside him.

NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND - Hayao Miyazaki (VIZ/Editor's Choice)

The gentle but strong-minded Princess Nausicaa must venture from the Valley of the Wind to save the world as war threatens to destroy the fragile pockets of humanity left after an ecological disaster nearly destroyed the world many years before.

NODAME CANTABILE - Tomoko Ninomiya (Del Rey Manga)

Music student Shinichi wants to be a conductor, but his fear of flying curtails his dream. When he wonders if he should quit music, he meets Megumi Noda, called Nodame. She can't read a music score, but she can play the piano beautifully. Maybe Shinichi can still enjoy music ...

PLANETES - Makoto Yukimura (TOKYOPOP)

This is a science fiction tale of space as seen through the eyes of debris cleaners on a ship charged with clearing space junk from space flight paths. Yuri remains haunted by his wife's death, Hachimaki dreams of buying his own ship, Fee misses her husband and young son, and Pops keeps everything together.

RANMA ½ - Rumiko Takahashi (VIZ/Action)

Teenage martial artist Ranma becomes a girl when splashed with cold water, but that's only the start of his troubles when he and his father (who becomes a panda) return to Japan from China. Ranma is supposed to marry Akane even though they don't like each other, but rivals keep popping up, and each of them has also fallen into a cursed pool and transform into various animals. Crazy martial arts action happens in every volume of this long-running series.

R.O.D. (READ OR DIE) - Hideyuki Kurata (VIZ/Action)

Yomiko Readman is the ultimate bookworm, never traveling without a suitcase full of books, but she is also a paper master, able to manipulate paper into weapons and defenses. She needs all her skills when she works as an agent for the British Library's Special Operations Division.

RUROUNI KENSHIN - Nobuhiro Watsuki (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

During the fighting to establish the Meiji Restoration, Himura Kenshin worked as a "hitokiri," an assassin. Now that the war is over, Kenshin wields a reverse blade sword, determined to never kill again and also determined to protect the innocent from the venal and the evil.

SGT. FROG - Mine Yoshizaki (TOKYOPOP)

Sergeant Keroro was part of an advance team sent to scout Earth for an invasion force when his ship crashlanded on the planet. Keroro, a frog, takes refuge in the Hinata household, where the kids confiscate his weapons and their manga creator mom makes him her pet. Abandoned by his people, Keroro continues to plan for world domination with the help (?) of his lost platoon.

THE WALLFLOWER - Tomoko Hayakawa (Del Rey Manga)

Four fifteen-year-old friends will be allowed to live rent-free in a fabulous mansion, if they can effect a transformation on the owner's wallflower niece. Sunako is an agoraphobic recluse who loves horror movies and has a pockmarked face, frizzy hair and is totally fashion-illiterate. Three years may not be enough time!

W JULIET - Emura (VIZ/Shojo)

Makoto's father won't allow him to pursue his dream to become an actor unless he spends the last two years of high school pretending to be a girl at a drama academy. Tomboy Ito shares his secret and helps Makoto maintain his masquerade against all odds.

XXXHOLIC - CLAMP (Del Rey Manga)

Haunted by ghosts and desperate for help, Kimihiro accepts the witch Yuuko's offer, but he discovers her price means he'll have to work in her little shop, where strange visitors come. This series crosses over with **TSUBASA: RESERVOIR CHRONICLES**.

YUYU HAKUSHO - Yoshiro Togashi (VIZ/Shonen Jump)

Tough teen delinquent Yusuke died saving a child's life; the afterlife didn't know what to do with him, so it sent him back to Earth, to perform good deeds. Sometimes that means doing battle with otherworldly beings, especially when they threaten his friends.

BL TITLES

Titles that both appeal to BL/Yaoi fans as well as titles that expressly Boys Love (this is the preferred term)

DESCENDANTS OF DARKNESS – Yoko Matsushita (VIZ)

Tzuzuki never seems to catch a break – in the afterlife, he is one of the many Shinigami, or Guardians of Death, who investigate when a soul does not make their appointed arrival once departing earth. He's been in the same job for 70 years, and all he really wants is a great pastry. Now he's saddled with a rookie partner and the reappearance of his nemesis. This freewheeling mix of police procedural, comedy, and horror has an undercurrent of tension between the two leads, but thus far its never moved beyond implied feelings.

EARTHIAN – Yun Kouga – (Blu)

Angels have been observing humanity for eons, carefully weighing mankind's noble and base impulses. If we prove ourselves good-hearted, we will be allowed to exist, but if our behavior proves us an evil race, we will be wiped out. This elegant, classic BL series encompasses an epic war between angels and humans as well as the burgeoning relationship between two male angels in a society where homosexual love is punished by death.

GORGEOUS CARAT – You Higuri (Blu)

At the turn of the twentieth century, penniless nobleman Florian is ensnared by the secretive and powerful Ray Courland Balzac, who also happens to be the infamous jewel thief Noir. Elaborate balls, heists, and conspiracies abound in this glittering slice of fin du siècle Paris, not to mention simmering attraction between the two leads. The series starts out fine for teens but will progress to more mature content.

GRAVIATION – Maki Murakami (TOKYOPOP)

Aspiring rock star Shuichi is desperate to wow the world with his hyper attitude and original lyrics – but one cutting comment from a stranger may deflate his dreams. The fact that said stranger, Eri Yuki, is a famous novelist doesn't help, but Shuichi is also powerfully attracted to the cold writer. This is one of the most popular BL series, though the power dynamics in the couple can be troubling – in the end, the outrageous humor, the rock music antics, and the flashes of true devotion make an appealing combination.

IL GATTO SUL G – Tooyo Miyagi (Juné Manga)

Riya has always been a violin prodigy – but what if he needs to be something else? When the pressures of stellar musical and academic careers rise, Riya's personality shifts to a young man desperate to shatter expectations and win freedom from obligations at any cost. New friend and protector Atsushi seems to accept Riya and all of his problems, but will he be able to handle warring personalities?

LA ESPERANCA – (Juné Manga)

When you live trying to make up for others' mistakes, are you truly good, or are you avoiding the truth? The angelic Georges is an ideal friend and student hiding a dark inheritance, and new student Robert is determined to knock Georges down a few pegs. Never mind that Georges is the spitting image of a long lost love...Full of tension but focused more on friendship and school life, **La Esperança** is a melodramatic and endearing series.

LOVELESS – Yun Kouga (TOKYOPOP)

12-year-old Ritsuka is determined to find out who murdered his older brother Seimei. Enter Soubi, a friend of Seimei's who promises to help Ritsuka. Damaged, starved for affection, and suspicious, Ritsuka allows himself to be drawn into Soubi's sphere, a world where words become spells and people are weapons. What are Soubi's true intentions, and will Ritsuka uncover the truth or just more hurt? Not for the faint of heart, but exquisitely rendered, this tale contains dark implications and innuendo but remains in essence about affection and building trust.

ONLY THE RING FINGER KNOWS – Satoru Kannagi (Juné Manga)

Wataru has always felt a little above his classmates' obsessions with rings – couples wear matching pairs on their left ring fingers while singles show their availability by wearing a band on their right middle finger. It all seems like foolishness until Wataru discovers his ring matches the senior class hottie Kazuki. Does that mean they're destined for each other!? Full of awkwardness and flying hormones, this sweet title is great for any collection.

SAME CELL ORGANISM – (Juné Manga)

In the same vein as **Only the Ring Finger Knows**, this tender sequence of short stories highlight timid first steps and the simple joy of hearing “I love you” from the right person at the right time. Moments of humor lighten up the angst of confession. The art is beautifully fluid and expressive, especially in the progression of expressions across our young lovers’ faces.

TIME LAG – Shinobu Gotoh (Juné Manga)

In a slight twist on the usual build up to romance, Satoru has confessed his love to best friend Shirou every year of high school. Shirou keeps treating Satoru’s feelings as a bad joke, and Satoru’s teased for ignoring clear signals. Satoru, driven by tradition as much as affection, will give it one last chance – will Shirou ever return his feelings?

TOKYO BABYLON – CLAMP (TOKYOPOP)

Sumeragi Subaru is the head of Sumeragi clan and an onmyoji, or a master of spirits, more powerful than any other of his generation. Subaru and his twin sister, Hokuto, are befriended by a neighbor, the older but cheerful Sakurazuka Seishirou, a veterinarian and sorcerer with his own legendary pedigree. On the surface, Seishirou appears to be everything the Sumeragi twins need -- a confidant, a friend, and a guardian -- but every once in a while he seems to display an alarmingly cold side. Could he be something different from what the Sumeragi assume?

OEL MANGA - Original English Language Manga

FOR PRETEENS AND YOUNGER TEENS

KAT & MOUSE - Alex de Campi (TOKYOPOP)

Kat Foster’s parents move to New England so her father can take over as middle school science teacher at Dover Academy. Kat very soon discovers that things are not all well there, a prankster has been stealing items, and her father has become the target of student blackmailers. Snubbed by all the students except fellow seventh-grader Mouse, Kat decides to investigate incidents at the science lab to clear her father.

NEOTOPIA - Rod Espinosa (Antarctic Press)

Servant girl Nalyn has posed as Duchess Nydia often, while the real, spoiled, Duchess ducks responsibility for fancy dress balls and fun. Then their kingdom, Mathenia, is attacked while Nalyn is impersonating Nydia. She must stay in the role and rally the troops and plan strategies against the evil Empire of Krossos, and even the treachery of Nydia’s brother.

PEACH FUZZ - Lindsay Cibos (TOKYOPOP)

Lonely young Amanda convinces her mother to let her get a pet, and then she chooses a ferret she names Peach. Her mother lays down two simple rules: Amanda must take care of Peach, and Peach must never bite Amanda. The problem is, Peach thinks Amanda is a monster and bites in self-defense. Will they learn to get along so Amanda can keep Peach?

FOR OLDER TEENS

DRAMACON - Svetlana Chmakova (TOKYOPOP)

Writer Christie attends her first anime convention to promote the comic she created with her boyfriend Derek, but she encounters unexpected romance with a handsome cosplayer who refuses to take off his sunglasses.

THE DREAMING - Queenie Chan (TOKYOPOP)

Twins Jeanie and Amber attend an exclusive boarding school located at the edge of the outback where they have to pretend to not be twins; the school has experienced mysterious disappearances of some students over the years, and it's happening again. What do their shared dreams mean, and what connection do their dreams have with the disappearances?

MEGATOKYO - Fred Gallagher (Vols 1-3 Dark Horse Comics, Vol 4 on DC/CMX)

Friends Largo and Piro travel to Tokyo on a lark, max out their credit cards on games (Largo) and manga and anime (Piro). Then they discover they can't go home - they don't have the funds - and they're now stranded in Tokyo. Now the adventures begin, as Piro finds work - and possibly romance, while Largo becomes obsessed with the notion that zombies from his games are really invading Tokyo.

SORCERERS & SECRETARIES - Amy Kim Ganter (TOKYOPOP)

Nicole wants to be a writer and has a notebook with her at all times in which she writes a fantasy story which seems more real than her actual life. Josh Kim, Nicole's old neighbor, is a hopeless flirt working in a bookstore but still nursing a crush on Nicole. Can he make her see him as someone she can like, and can she start her writing career?

STEADY BEAT - Rivkah (TOKYOPOP)

Leah discovers a love letter to her sister - from another girl. She decides to find the mysterious letter writer, and along the way she finds love in the most unexpected places.

RECOMMENDED ANIME SERIES

FOR PRETEENS AND YOUNGER TEENS

ANGELIC LAYER (Funimation, 10+)

When Misaki moves to Tokyo for middle school, she is introduced to the game Angelic Layer, where dolls battle in a battlefield where they are controlled by their owner's thoughts. This game, where someone small like her can become one of the greatest players, appeals to Misaki and she quickly begins competing and meeting new friends who are also interested in Angelic Layer.

FRUITS BASKET (Funimation, 13+)

Orphaned Tohru Honda is befriended by the Sohma family, who take the homeless girl into their household; then she stumbles upon their secret - when hugged by a member of the opposite gender, they change into animals of the Chinese zodiac. But Kyo turns into a cat, which makes him an outcast. Can Tohru help the Sohmas, and Kyo, deal with their curse?

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST (Funimation, 13+)

Alchemy begins with a simple principle of equivalent exchange: if you want something, you have to give up something of equal value. The trick is judging value accurately, especially when souls weight the scales.

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (Buena Vista, 8+)

Based on the novel by Diana Wynne Jones. Sophie is a simple and plain girl when the Witch of the Waste curses her. Now turned into an old woman, Sophie must travel in search of the famous and mysterious wizard Howl to find a way to lift the curse. All of Studio Ghibli and Hayao Miyazaki's films are highly recommended.

IRRESPONSIBLE CAPTAIN TYLOR (Right Stuf, 13+)

Justy Tylor doesn't have what it takes to be a captain: he's lazy, has no discipline, and seems like a complete idiot, but after saving the life of an admiral, he's promoted to captain of the spaceship Soyokaze, whose crew are none to happy about it.

JUBEI-CHAN (Bandai, 13+)

When the famous samurai Yagyū Jubei was dying, he asked his disciple to find his successor. After 300 years of searching he finds her, Jiyū, an eighth grade girl who has no desire to wear the Lovely Eyepatch. This 13 episode series is funny and full of satire on the samurai films.

PRINCESS NINE (ADV Films, 13+)

Nine girls in an all girls school team together to take on the boys in baseball. This series is a great feel-good series. The DVDs include a lot of fun extras like Cook Oden noodles.

PRINCESS TUTU (ADV Films, 14+)

A duck who turns into a girl who turns into a prima ballerina superheroine! Add in a prince with no heart, a dark rival ballerina, a scheming friend, and the music of ballet and you've got a lush, if a bit zany, fairy tale.

SPIRITED AWAY (Disney/Buena Vista, 13+)

13-year-old Chihiro is terribly bored by the idea of moving far away from everything familiar. When her parents offend the spirit world, Chihiro's ingenuity and hard work become their only hope of freedom, she begins to realize just how harsh the world can be when you're alone. Myths of every tradition combine in this magical Studio Ghibli film.

TOKYO GODFATHERS (Columbia/Tristar, 13+)

Three homeless outcasts discover an abandoned baby on Christmas Eve – will they be able to return her to her parents? A madcap ride through Tokyo at the same time as being an affecting portrait of the families everyone makes.

.HACK//SIGN (Bandai, 13+)

Welcome to the World – the massive multi-player online role playing game that has entranced almost the entire planet. Isolated character Tsukasa has one problem: he can't log out, nor does he even sense his body in the outside world. Players are seen almost exclusively as game avatars, with only a few clues to their real-life identity, and as the mysteries of just how independent artificial intelligence can be unfold, the World may never be the same.

FOR OLDER TEENS

BOOGIEPOP PHANTOM (Right Stuf, 15+)

Featuring a splintered timeline and a labyrinthine plot, Boogiepop Phantom asks a lot of its viewers but repays them with a vivid, haunting tale. Extremely spooky but never truly gory, this anime series creeps you out by pushing your own imagination to its limits with multi-layered sound and images just on the edge of your perception.

COWBOY BEBOP (Bandai, 13+)

Spike and former cop, Jet, are a team of bounty hunters in the year 2071. Flying throughout the galaxy, they search for those with a price on their heads. With jazzy, blues music by composer Yoko Kanno and the Seatbelts, this seminal favorite is one every anime fan should watch.

EXCEL SAGA (ADV Films, 17+)

Excel is one of the few members of ACROSS, an organization determined to take over the world, one city at a time. This series is hilarious and parodies many different anime and manga stereotypes.

FINAL FANTASY VII: ADVENT CHILDREN (Columbia Tri-Star, 15+)

The game Final Fantasy VII is one of the most played role-playing video games ever. Advent Children begins after the game ends. Peace has been achieved, but Midgar is in ruins and a mysterious disease is spreading. The reluctant hero, Cloud, must come out of seclusion to fight for the world once more.

GANKUTSUOU: THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (Geneon, 16+)

In a landscape that appears a collision between alien technology and 19th century sensibility, the Count of Monte Cristo is plotting his revenge. In this reinvention of the classic novel, the story is told from the point of view of Albert, the Count's naïve victim, and despite a strong homage to the original, the tale winds its own path so that even those familiar with Dumas' text are in for a surprise.

GETBACKERS (ADV Films, 15+)

The Getbackers will get back anything, anywhere, for a price. Or they would, if anyone hired them. Their unique talents are harder to advertise: Ginji can wield electricity while Ban has an immensely strong grip and, even cooler, the ability to create a completely convincing illusion for exactly one minute. Their jobs get them into a fair number of scrapes, but their street smarts and loyalty keeps them going even when their secrets threaten their current camaraderie.

GHOST IN THE SHELL: STAND ALONE COMPLEX (Bandai, 13+)

In a future where bodies are artificial and only your soul, or your "ghost" defines your humanity, how do you know what is human and what is not? What happens when you can hack into people – especially now that people, machines, and networks are merging into one and the same thing?

GOKUSEN (Media Blasters, 13+)

Kumiko has landed her first job as a teacher at a high school filled with juvenile delinquents, but Kumiko knows how to handle them; besides being a teacher, she's also the heir to a Yazuka family. This 13-episode show has heartfelt moments as well as laugh out loud comedy.

INITIAL D (TOKYOPOP, 13+)

The first five episodes of this car-racing anime series are the first story arc and race. This is a great series for discussing Japanese teen culture and has great usage of computer generated illustrations and techno music.

KINO'S JOURNEY (ADV Films, 15+)

Traveller Kino will only stay three days in any one place – any longer, and she might get too involved, even attached, to the place. Her only companions are a gruff talking motorbike and her sharp-shooter pistols. Even three days, though, can pack a wallop, and each diversion leads Kino to lessons, myths, and pondering the grander questions of life.

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION (A.D. Vision, 13+)

Considered one of the most influential mecha series made, Evangelion looks at the life of Shinji, a teen boy who lives in Tokyo 3, and pilots one of the Eva units against the invading Angels for his father, the agency NERV, and the chance to save mankind.

OH! MY GODDESS OVA (AnimEigo, 13+)

Keiichi while ordering dinner accidentally dials a Goddess hotline. Belladandy appears and Keiichi wishes she was his girlfriend and would never leave him. With the wish granted, they are now inseparable, which causes problems as Keiichi lives in all male dormitory.

PARANOIA AGENT (Geneon, 16+)

A middle schooler dubbed L'il Slugger is attacking people across the city. As the rumors start to fly, his reputation and character change, but his victims are all loosely connected and may hold more damage and secrets than can be remedied by simply identifying their assailant. A grim look at victimhood and delusion, lightened with touches of whimsy, Satoshi Kon's latest miniseries asks a lot of questions with few easy answers.

PEACEMAKER (ADV Films, 15+)

Tetsunosuke wants revenge for his parents' murders, so he joins the Shinsengumi, the elite swordsmen who protect Kyoto from the rebels trying to overthrow the Shogunate. But as he learns that the Shinsengumi are as ruthless as the murderers, he must decide if he can truly become a demon for revenge.

RAHXEPHON (ADV Films, 15+)

Everyone thinks that outside of Tokyo, the world has been destroyed, but when high school student Ayato, meets Reika, she leads him to where a mecha being called RahXephon is being hatched from its egg. If Ayato pilots RahXephon, he'll not only be able to fight for his world, but also learn the real nature of his reality. If teens liked Evangelion, give them this one next.

RANMA ½ (VIZ, 13+)

Classic Rumiko Takahashi. Ranma Saotome, teen martial artist, is cursed. Doused with cold water, he becomes a she. With hot water, he returns back to his old self. Dealing with the curse is bad enough, but Ranma also has to contend with fiancés, rivals, and lots of wacky martial artists in this series filled with relationships, fights, and comedy.

READ OR DIE (OVA) (Manga Entertainment, 13+)

Yomiko Readman barely cares about anything but books. When she's found a new volume, she's likely to ignore all calls to her job: a spy for England who can control paper, making everything from fighting missiles to giant paper airplanes. When she gets going, though, she can create quite the paper storm.

RUROUNI KENSHIN (Media blasters, 13+)

Kenshin is a former rebel fighter who helped overthrow the Shogunate from power. Now ten years later, he only uses his reverse blade sword to protect the dreams of those around him. But as he settles down at the Kamiya Dojo, old enemies and those who don't want to change from the old samurai ways arrive to unsettle him.

SAMURAI CHAMPLOO (Geneon, 16+)

A mishmash of period samurai tropes highlighted with the music, attitude, and style of hip-hop could have resulted in disaster, but this irreverent but energetic anime series from the creators of Cowboy Bebop won fans over. The violence is swift and frequent, but not overly gory, though the language and occasional sensual situation make the series most appropriate for older teens and adults.

SHURA NO TOKI (Media Blasters, 13+)

There once was the Mutsu Clan, powerful weaponless martial artists who fought against samurai. This series follows three generations of clansmen and the famous samurai they go up against: Miyamoto Musashi, Jubei Yagyu, Ryoma Sakemoto and Soushi Okita.

SUPER GALS (ADV Films, 15+)

Watch out Shibuya, here come the 'gals! Three friends, Ran, Miyu, and Aya, live, shop, and play in the Shibuya area of Tokyo. This hilarious look at the Kogal lifestyle is a hit with teens.

TWELVE KINGDOMS (Media Blasters, 13+)

One day at school, a mysterious blonde man appears and pledges his allegiance to Youko. In return, he transports her and accidentally two of her classmates to a foreign world. A world in which Youko's appearances change and she can understand the language of the people and her classmates cannot. In this world, she will meet her destiny, but first she will have to live through her classmates' betrayals.

VOICES OF A DISTANT STAR (ADV Films, 13+)

Star-crossed lovers are nothing new, but imagine just how you'd keep a relationship alive if the growing distance between you was lightyears instead of miles? A short, eloquent film about love and loneliness, this anime follows one teen girl on a mission into space while her boyfriend remains on earth. Every text message sent between the two takes longer and longer, the time between stretching from hours to years. Is it even possible to stay in love, or does it automatically break down?

WITCH HUNTER ROBIN (Bandai, 13+)

STN-J, the Japanese team of a special organization, hunts down witches who abuse their supernatural powers. The most powerful member of the team is a teen girl named Robin who is able to control flames. This series is episodic in nature until around episode 13 and then the episodes continue into one another. The series is good for the gothic teens.

And take special note of anything on Cartoon network, as that is what teens are watching and know.