

Graphic Novels for Younger Children

Crane, Jordan. **The Clouds Above**. Fantagraphics, 2005. 156097627-6. Gr. 2 & up. A young boy and his cat keep taking shortcuts on their way to school that lead them through fantasy worlds of monsters and more. With few words, this is a good choice for beginning readers.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Wolves in the Walls**. HarperCollins, 2003. 0380810956. Gr. 3 & Up. Gaiman's picture book about one little girl's prescient concern for the sanctity of her home is visually realized through collage and other multimedia images that match the sometimes dark, fantastical story, tone for tone. For the twenty-first-century child: visually and emotionally sophisticated, accessible, and inspired by both literary and popular themes and imagery.

Gilbert, Emmanuel. **Sardine in Outer Space**. First Second Books, 2006. 1596431261. 122 p. Gr. 4 & Up. Originally published in France, this series features tiny space-pirate Sardine who travels the starways with her piratical uncle Yellow Shoulders foiling the plots of Supermuscleman, nefarious Chief Executive Dictator of the Universe.

Harper, Charise. **Fashion Kitty**. Hyperion, 2005. 0786851341. Gr. 3 & Up. During an accident on Kiki's eighth birthday, fashion magazines fall on her head and she wakes, transformed into Fashion Kitty, with superpowers that allow her to help with fashion emergencies, even the ability to see a fashion faux pas in the making. Clean, pink dominated illustrations enhance the text.

Holm, Jennifer and Matthew Holm. **Babymouse: Queen of the World!** Random House, 2005. 0375932291. 91 p. Gr. 3 & Up. First in a series, a brother and sister team has created a lovable character in Babymouse, an imaginative mouse who dreams of being queen of the world, but will settle for an invitation to the most popular girl's slumber party.

Holm, Jennifer and Matthew Holm. **Babymouse: Our Hero**. Random House, 2005. 0375832297. 91 p. Gr. 3 & Up. Babymouse's adventures continue in the second installment in the series. The imaginative young mouse is terrified to face her enemy in dodgeball, but with the help of her best friend and support from her mother, she not only plays the game, she proves herself a hero.

Hosler, Jay. **Clan Apis**. Active Synapse, 2000. 096772550X. 158 p. Gr. 5 & up. The life cycle and natural environment of the honeybee come to life in this informative and entertaining non-fiction title from an entomologist who is both a cartoonist and a storyteller. *op

Lat. **Kampung Boy**. Roaring Brook Press, 2006. 9781596431218. Gr. 4 & Up. In this autobiography, Lat recounts his childhood growing up in a small village (or kampung) in Malaysia. Beginning in his infancy, the reader experiences Lat's life up to his later boyhood, when he leaves his family and familiarity to attend boarding school. His black-and-white text resembles a chronological sketchbook.

Lutes, Jason. **Houdini: The Handcuff King**. Illus. by Nick Bertozzi. Hyperion, 2007. 0-7868-3902-3. Gr. 4 & Up. This informative biography follows a day in the life of Houdini culminating in his jump from the Harvard Bridge and rapid underwater

escape. The black and white illustrations with shades of blue and blue-gray depict Houdini accurately.

Morse, Scott. **Magic Pickle**. Graphix, 2008. 0439879957. 112 p. Gr. 2 & Up. Grade-schooler Jojo Wigman has a supersecret, superpowerful government weapon, a magical pickle, on her side to help battle enemies such as the Romaine Gladiator and perhaps the school bully.

Petrucha, Stefan and Murase Sho. **Nancy Drew, Girl Detective. Vol. 1: The Demon Of River Heights**. Papercutz, 2005. 9781597070003. 96 p. Gr. 4 & Up. Nancy Drew is back, updated with new stories drawn out in classic Carolyn Keene action packed style with dark, edgy illustrations.

Runton, Andy. **Owly, Vol. 1: The Way Home and the Bittersweet Summer**. Top Shelf Productions, 2004. 1891830627. 157 p. Gr. 2 & Up. This wordless graphic novel series follows two best friends, an owl and a worm, on their journey to help friends in need.

Siegel, Siena Cherson. **To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel**. Aladdin, 2006. 9781416926870. Gr. 4 & Up. An autobiography of a flat footed ballerina who begins dancing at the age of six and was accepted to the School of American Ballet when she was eleven. Watercolor-and-ink illustrations enhance the text. 2007 Sibert Honor Book.

Sis, Peter. **The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain**. FSG, 2007. 9780374347017. Gr. 4 & Up. This illustrated autobiography by a Czech artist who grew up on the communist side of the Iron Curtain is an eye opening exploration of life during the Cold War era in Eastern Europe. 2008 Caldecott Honor and 2008 Sibert Award.

Smith, Jeff. **Bone: Vol.1: Out From Boneville**. Scholastic, 2005. 0439706408. Gr. 5 & Up. Follow the Bone cousins as they leave their home and begin their adventures in the outside world. Crisp color illustrations match well with the humorous text.

Spiegelman, Art. **Little Lit: Strange Stories for Strange Kids, Book 2**. HarperCollins, 2001. 0060286261. 64 p. Gr. 4 & Up. An anthology of postmodern tales for children. Written and illustrated in cartoon panels, each quirky story focuses on a different anxiety, from global warming to identity crisis. *op

Please note: These graphic novels are recommended for purchase by public libraries serving youth. Books were selected based on quality of text, artwork and overall appeal. The titles and suggested age levels only serve as a guide; librarians are encouraged to determine what is best their collections.

For questions contact:

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