Graphic Novels for Teens


Burns, Charles. **Black Hole**. Pantheon, 2005. 037542380X. 368 p. Gr. 10 & up. A group of mid-1970s high school students enjoy their everyday lives of partying, drugs, and sex, with one horrific deviation from reality: an apparently incurable sexually transmitted disease referred to only as "the Bug," which mutates its victims in grotesque ways. Won a 2006 Eisner Award. With nudity, sex, and disturbing imagery, this one is best for older teen collections.


Eisner, Will. **The Contract with God Trilogy: Life on Dropsie Avenue**. Norton & Company, 2005. 0393061051. 498 p. Gr. 9 & Up. *Contract with God* was originally published in 1978 and is considered by many to be the first graphic novel. All three stories in the trilogy (*Contract with God, A Life Force, and Dropsie Avenue*) are printed together for the first time in this volume.

Eisner, Will. **Fagin the Jew**. Doubleday, 2003. 0385510098. 121 p. Gr. 9 & Up. The father of graphic novels is known for his portrayal of Jewish life. This time he re-envisions the character of Fagin, the sinister ringleader of a band of young thieves in Charles Dicken’s *Oliver Twist*.


Lutes, Jason. *Berlin: City of Stones*. Drawn & Quarterly, 2000. 1896597297. Gr. 9 & Up. This black-and-white historical narrative collects eight volumes of a comic book set in Berlin during the late '20s. A multilayered tale of love and politics at the beginning of the Nazi era, it follows the stories of three characters: a 20ish art student from the provinces, a textile worker, and a young Jewish radical.


Moore, Alan. *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol. 1*. DC Comics, 2002. 1563898586. Gr. 9 & Up. In 1898, as the glory days of the British Empire were waning, an incredible band of adventurers was brought together to save England in its hour of need. This volume collects the complete best-selling six-issue miniseries.


Seagle, Steven T. *It's a Bird...* Illus. by Teddy Kristiansen. Vertigo, 2004. 1401203116. Gr. 9 & Up. Not a Superman story, exactly, more of an experimental, refracted, semi-fictional memoir, with Superman-or, rather, the variety of ideas that Superman represents-as its central symbol. Kristiansen's inventive ink-and-watercolor artwork gives a crisp, arty look to the sections about Seagle’s troubled personal life.


relationship with his father and with history itself. Jews are portrayed as mice and Nazis as cats.


Yoshizumi, Wataru. **Marmalade Boy Vol. 1**. Tokyopop, 2002. 195 p. 1404628746. Gr. 9 & Up. A popular manga series, Miki just wants an ordinary family, but her life is turned upside-down when her parents meet the Matsuuras, and she ends up living in a house with four parents and an annoying stepbrother. *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 for their collections.

For questions contact:

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