Graphic Novels 101

Ratings – Reviews – Resources

Why Graphic Novels Matter

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
October 11, 2016
1. Brief History
2. Educational Benefits
3. Collection Development
4. Resources
5. Programs & More…

We will discuss…
• **Comic Strip**: A short sequence of 1 page or less

• **Comic Book**: Serialized comics appearing in a magazine-sized booklet

• **Graphic Novel**: Novel-length comics or a collection of comic books that tell a single narrative arc appearing in book form

• **Manga**: Stylized Japanese graphic novel in which both page and panels are read right to left.

• **Anime**: Animation of Japanese origin that can share both style and narrative tropes with manga. Not to be confused with a book; is television or film format.

Definitions to Know
How to Read Panels

- How to read a comic book: appreciating the story behind the art by Alex Abad-Santos, VOX, 2/25/2015

- Visual Rhetoric/Visual Literacy: Writing About Comics and Graphic Novels by Duke University, Thompson Writing Center
  [http://twp.duke.edu/twp-writing-studio/resources/writing-for-specific-disciplines](http://twp.duke.edu/twp-writing-studio/resources/writing-for-specific-disciplines)
# Reading Western Comics vs Manga

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reads: L → R</td>
<td>• Reads: R → L (&quot;backwards&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Usually in full color</td>
<td>• Usually in black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More square panels</td>
<td>• More fluid layout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More varied art styles</td>
<td>• Defined by specific art style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Third-person narrative</td>
<td>• First-person narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More text heavy; narration</td>
<td>• Dialog and visuals move story</td>
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Major Publishers

- Marvel Comics
- DC Comics
- Dark Horse Comics
- Image Comics
- IDW Publishing
- Gemstone Publishing
- Fantagraphics
- Kodansha
- Viz
Explicit Content

Graphic does not mean...
A Brief History

(image via: Internet Public Library)
Educational Benefits

- Reluctant Readers
- Vocabulary Exposure
- Visual Literacy
- Comprehension
“Does having read the novelization of the latest superhero movie “count” as having read a book?”

“How about a graphic novel based on a line of toys?”
• They give you all the visual stimulation of a movie with the textual experience of a book
• They give you a different way to experience events both fictional and historical
• They engage both the right and left hemispheres of your brain.

What Graphic Novels Offer
Meet Gene Luen Yang

National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature
2016 MacArthur Genius Grant Honoree
MacArthur Genius Grantee on Teaching Kids with Comics

*Washington Post*

http://tinyurl.com/h4anui2
READING without WALLS
Graphic Novels Educators’ Guide

By: Guide prepared by Terri Leseone

A comprehensive educators’ guide for using graphic novels in the classroom.

Random House Children’s Books

http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/

Download here
Curriculum Guides & Discussion Resources

Search KDLA’s Catalog for professional titles and more:
http://kdla.ky.gov/common/Pages/WorldCatDiscovery.aspx

- **Developing and Promoting Graphic Novel Collections**
  by Steve Miller, Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2005
  Record Link: [http://tinyurl.com/jzmrk5](http://tinyurl.com/jzmrk5)

- **The Reader’s Advisory Guide to Graphic Novels**
  by Francisca Goldsmith, American Library Assoc., 2010
  Record Link: [http://tinyurl.com/z4h3q9e](http://tinyurl.com/z4h3q9e)

- **Comic Book Collections for Libraries**
  Record Link: [http://tinyurl.com/jlsywq5](http://tinyurl.com/jlsywq5)

- **Wonderfully Wordless: The 500 Most Recommended Graphic Novels and Picture Books**
  by William Patrick Martin, Rowman and Littlefield 2015
  Record Link: [http://tinyurl.com/hq4wv5z](http://tinyurl.com/hq4wv5z)
HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO BUY FOR MY LIBRARY?

Best Selection Methods & Tools
• Split between 3 selectors:
  • Adult
  • Children’s
  • Teen
• Input information into a Google Doc Spreadsheet
• Looking at collection as a system
• Sorry Dewey – use stand alone collection codes
  • GN + Author Last Name OR By Series (i.e. GNBatman)
• Shelve by audience – absolutely DO NOT interfile…

• “But they want the Walking Dead…”

• Graphic Non-Fiction is it’s own genre; shelve accordingly

A Note on Ratings (& Censorship)
Ratings

*Not necessarily comparable to Western age rating systems
Yen Press Rating Summary

The goal of the Yen Press rating system is to provide parents, librarians and retailers with as much information about the contents of our books as simply and concisely as possible. Ultimately, opinions about appropriateness of content for a particular reader are a subjective matter likely to vary from person to person. However, this is a useful tool to give readers some sense of what they may expect.

Yen's ratings are structured in two tiers: age ratings (A, T, OT, M) and content indicators (L, V, S, N). Age ratings indicate a maturity threshold below which some parents or guardians may find the content unsuitable. Content indicators provide insight as to the material within the book that prompted a particular age rating. The frequency and/or severity of that material is reflected in the age rating.

AGE RATINGS

All Readers

A

An "A" rating indicates that the material contained within the book has been deemed unlikely to be found inappropriate for any particular age group.

Teen

T

A "T" rating indicates that there may be content within a book that some parents or guardians may consider inappropriate for children under the age of 13.

Older Teen

OT

An "OT" rated book contains material that some parents or guardians may consider inappropriate for readers under the age of 16.

Mature

M

An "M" rated book is intended for a mature readership and may be considered inappropriate for readers under the age of 18.

CONTENT INDICATORS

L = Language

S = Sexual Situations

V = Violence

N = Nudity
Beginner/ Not enough time...

• B&T/Ingram

• Amazon.com Best Sellers

• NYT Best Sellers

• SLJ/PW

• ALA Lists*

Intermediate/Advanced
Select like the Pros...

• Get it for free if you tell your favorite comic book shop you’re a librarian!

• Published by Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc.

• Best features:
  • Annual Free Comic Book Day preview
  • Top 10 Lists:
    • Graphics
    • Manga
    • DVDs
    • Games (tabletop)
    • Books (F/NF)
• Io9
• iFanboy
• DC Women Kicking Ass
• The Mary Sue
• Bleeding Cool
• Robot 6 @ Comic Book Resources
• The Beat

More blogs to follow...
• Good Comics for Kids (School Library Journal)
• No Flying No Tights
• Graphic Novel Reporter
• About.com Manga
• Anime News Network

More blogs to follow
PROGRAMS & EVENTS
All Ages Fun for the Whole Family!
Teens

- Cosplays
- Tabletop Day
- Gaming clubs
- Geek Pride Day – May 25
- Final Friday Fandom


Library Link Up: Fandom Events

http://kdl.a.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/KDLA ArchivedWebinars.aspx#linkup
Preschool

• Princess Picnic
  • Princess Read-Aloud
  • Make a Tiara
  • Tea Time
  • Writer a letter to a Disney Princess
• Superhero Storytime
  • Hero Read-Aloud
  • Obstacle Course
http://igd.ala.org/
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

1st SATURDAY IN MAY!

www.freecomicbookday.com
Think outside the ALA/Local circuit...

Conventions:
- Cincinnati Comic Expo
- New York Comic Con
- Comic-Con International: San Diego
A Final Reminder...

• You are your best reviewer...

• Promote your collection!

• Frequent your local shops!
Questions?
WRAP-UP
For Public Library Youth Services Librarians & Staff:

• **KYAC** is a discussion list devoted to those who work with children and teens in the library. By using this LISTSERV®, individuals from around the state will have the chance to ask questions, share ideas, voice concerns, and make valuable contacts all through their e-mail.

• **TO SUBSCRIBE**: To join the list, send email with the subject "KYAC" to Krista.King-Oaks@ky.gov. In the body of the message, list your name and the name of your library. You will be emailed instructions for posting to this moderated discussion list.

• See the KDLA website for more information on our many listservs – for technology, adult services, bookmobile/outreach, & more! [http://kdlaky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/listservs.aspx](http://kdlaky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/listservs.aspx)
Follow KDLA on Social Media!

@KDLALibDev

KDLA CE
Visit KDLA’s Continuing Education Events Calendar to find learning opportunities on a variety of topics.

- **Library Link Up: Best of 2016**
  Thursday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central.

- **School Libraries Link Up: Introduction to H.A.N.D.S.**
  Thursday, November 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Eastern/2:00 p.m. Central.
Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Thank you!