

GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEWS & BOOKS

Top Titles and Favorites ◀ Compiled by Robin Brenner, Brookline Public Library ▶ March 2008

Professional Reviews

Booklist

Graphic Novel Spotlight special issue published annually every February

Graphic novel and manga reviews interspersed throughout the review section

The Horn Book

Graphic novel and manga reviews interspersed throughout the Review section

The ICv2 Guide

Graphic novel, manga and anime reviews by librarians featured, plus excellent analysis of each market

Library Journal

“Graphic Novel Reviews” Bi-monthly review column by Steve Raiteri and Martha Cornog. At the Library Journal website (<http://www.libraryjournal.com>), they also provide web-only weekly Graphic Novel Xpress reviews.

Library Media Connection

“Getting Graphic” column by Michele Gorman. Reviews periodically in the review section.

Publishers Weekly

Regularly covers manga and anime trends in short feature articles

Graphic novel and manga reviews interspersed throughout the Review section

School Library Journal

Graphic novel and manga reviews interspersed throughout the Review section

Voice of Youth Advocates

“Graphically Speaking” bi-monthly review column by Kat Kan
Graphic novel and manga reviews interspersed throughout the Review section, marked with an oval red “g” symbol indicating the graphic format

Online Lesson Plans and Reviews

Bookshelf from Diamond Comics

<http://bookshelf.diamondcomics.com/public/>

A great start for using comics and graphic novels in schools, including articles, lesson plans, and core lists.

Comics in the Classroom

<http://comicsintheclassroom.net/>

An excellent resource for using comics and graphic novels in the classroom — including lesson plans!

Kids Love Comics!

<http://www.kidslovecomics.com/>

A growing site from the new nonprofit organization run by Amelia Rules! creator Jimmy Gownley

Manga4kids

<http://manga4kids.com/>

A regularly updated website devoted to manga reviews with parents in mind

No Flying, No Tights

<http://www.noflyingnotights.com>

My own graphic novel review site, which covers all graphic novels. Sidekicks is especially for readers under 12, while the main section is for teens.

Word Balloons

<http://www.wordballoons.net/>

A brand new blog devoted to comics for kids (up to age 12), featuring commentary and reviews from librarians, parents, educators, and comics experts.

Books

Understanding Manga and Anime

By Robin Brenner

ISBN: 978-1-59158-332-5

This is my own recently published guide to the wide and complex world of Japanese manga and anime, for anyone curious about the medium.

Getting Graphic! Comics for Kids

by Michele Gorman

ISBN: 978-1-58683-327-5

A clear, useful annotated bibliography of over one hundred titles for ages 4-12.

Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens

by Michele Gorman

ISBN: 1-58683-089-9

A concise and creative guide to using graphic novels to promote literacy

The Power of Reading

ISBN: 1-59158-169-9

by Stephen Krashen

Features an amusing and illuminating chapter all about the influence of comics on vocabulary and literacy

Graphic Novels in Your Library Media Center: A Definitive Guide

ISBN: 1-59158-142-7

by Allyson Lyga and Barry Lyga

The best one-stop guide to graphic novels in schools

Understanding Comics

ISBN: 0-060-97625-X

Making Comics

ISBN: 0-060-78094-0

and

Reinventing Comics

ISBN: 0-060-95350-0

by Scott McCloud

The entertaining and informative guides to the history, creation and current status of sequential art, comics, and graphic novels

Graphic Novels: A Genre Guide to Comic Books, Manga, and More

ISBN: 978-1-59158-132-1

By Michael Pawuk

The latest guide to all kinds of graphic novels, a great quick reference resource.

INDUSTRY NEWS & PUBLISHERS

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Online News

ICv2

<http://www.icv2.com>

This pop culture industry website is the place to go for industry news especially for statistics and market information. Their excellent Retailer's Guides on both graphic novels and anime and manga providing an up-to-date look at the state of each industry, the best-selling titles, and the latest trends.

Graphic Novels in Libraries Listserv (GNLIB-L)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GNLIB-L>

This email listserv is the place to be for any librarian working with graphic novels, whether you are just beginning a collection or are trying to decide between the two latest popular titles. Participants include interested professionals, librarians, teachers, publishers, reviewers, columnists and library staff. Go here to get speedy and informed answers for "where does X title belong in my library?" to "What's the best shonen manga?" to "Help! I've got a challenge to defend!" Please note we've changed to Yahoo! for the group home.

Online Blogs

Comic-Con's The Pulse

<http://www.comicon.com/pulse/>

Run by the folks who present the most popular and well-reputed Comics convention in the U.S., the Pulse follows every possible thread of comics news succinctly and promptly. A great site to keep up on what's happening in the industry, the bulk of content is interviews, features, and articles rather than reviews.

Journalista

<http://www.tcj.com/journalista/>

Brigid Alverson's site highlights the discussions and news items for any manga fan, acting as a touchstone site connecting all of the other online chatters together.

Mangablog

<http://www.mangablog.net>

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Precocious Curmudgeon

<http://precur.blogspot.com/>

David Welsh, a columnist for *The Comics Reporter*, writes with humor and insight on the world of comics, manga and fandom.

Publisher Websites

ADV Manga: <http://www.advfilms.com/manga.asp>

Antarctic Press: <http://www.antarctic-press.com>

Broccoli Books: <http://www.broccolibooks.com>

Central Park Media (CPM):

<http://www.centralparkmedia.com/cpmcomics/cpmcomic.htm>

Dark Horse: <http://www.darkhorse.com/>

DC Comics: <http://www.dccomics.com>

Del Rey Manga: <http://www.randomhouse.com/delyrey/manga>

Digital Manga: <http://www.emanga.com>

Drawn & Quarterly:

<http://www.drawnandquarterly.com>

Fanfare/Ponent Mon: <http://www.ponentmon.com>

Fantagraphics: <http://www.fantagraphics.com>

First Second: <http://www.firstsecondbooks.com/>

Gemstone: <http://www.gemstonepub.com>

Go Comi! Manga: <http://www.gocomi.com>

Graphix: <http://www.scholastic.com/graphix/>

Hyperion: <http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/>

IDW Publishing: <http://www.idwpublishing.com>

Image Comics: <http://www.imagecomics.com>

Marvel: <http://www.marvel.com>

NBM: <http://www.nbmpub.com>

Netcomics: <http://www.netcomics.com>

Oni Press: <http://www.onipress.com>

Pantheon: <http://www.randomhouse.com/pantheon/graphicnovels>

Tokyopop: <http://www.tokyopop.com>

Toon Books:

Top Shelf: <http://www.topshelfcomix.com>

Vertical: <http://www.vertical-inc.com>

VIZ Media: <http://www.viz.com>

Yen Press: <http://www.yenpress.com>

Distributors

Diamond Comics: <http://www.diamondcomics.com>

Publisher Age Ratings

CMX (DC Comics):

<http://www.dccomics.com/cm/?action=about>

Del Rey Manga:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/delrey/manga/images/RatingsPage.pdf>

Marvel:

<http://www.marvel.com/catalog/ratings.htm>

Oni Press:

http://www.onipress.com/ratings_faq.php

Tokyopop:

<http://www.tokyopop.com/corporate/booksellers/879>

Yen Press:

http://yenpress.us/?page_id=23

CORE LISTS: GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR KIDS

Top Titles and Favorites ◀ Compiled by Robin Brenner, Brookline Public Library ▶ March 2008

NEW & NOTABLE TITLES

Amulet by Kazu Kibuishi (7 and up) *

The Arrival by Shaun Tan (7 and up) *

Dinosaurs Across America by Phil Yeh (7 and up)

Flight Explorer edited by Kazu Kibuishi (7 and up) *

Jellaby by Kean Soo (7 and up) *

Korgi by Christian Slade (7 and up)

Lions and Tigers and Bears by Mike Bullock (7 and up)

The Magic Pickle series by Scott Morse (5 and up)

Mouse Guard: Fall 1152 by David Peterson (9 and up) *

Otto's Orange Day by Frank Cammuso and Jay Lynch (7 and up)

Salt Water Taffy by Matthew Loux (9 and up) *

The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís (7 and up) *

Warriors series by Erin Hunter (7 and up) *

The World of Quest by Jason Kruse (9 and up)

Core Collection Titles

Adventures in Oz by Eric Shanower (7 and up) *

Akiko series by Mark Crilley (7 and up)

Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq by Mark Alan Stamaty (7 and up)

The Collected Alison Dare by J. Torres (7 and up) *

Amelia Rules! by Jimmy Gownley (7 and up)

The **Babymouse** series by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm (7 and up)

The Baby Sitter's Club series by Raina Telgemeier (9 and up)

Baron: The Cat Returns by Aoi Hiiragi (7 and up) *

Bone series by Jeff Smith (9 and up) *

Buzzboy by John Gallagher (9 and up)

Captain Raptor and the Moon Mystery by Kevin O'Malley (5 and up)

Castle Waiting by Linda Medley (7 and up) *

Clan Apis by Jay Hosler (7 and up)

Fashion Kitty by Charise Harper (7 and up)

The Osprey **Graphic History** series by various authors (9 and up)

The Hardy Boys series by Scott Lobdell (9 and up)

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (adapted by Chuck Dixon) (9 and up)

Kat & Mouse by Alex de Campi (7 and up) *

Leave it to Chance series by James Robinson (9 and up)

The **Nancy Drew** series by Stefan Petrucha (9 and up) *

Oddly Normal by Otis Frampton (9 and up) *

Owly series by Andy Runton (5 and up)

Polly and the Pirates by Ted Naifeh (9 and up) *

Tellos: Reluctant Heroes by Todd Dezago (9 and up)

To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel by Siena

Cherson Siegel (7 and up) *

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graeme, adapted by Michel Plessix (5 and up)

The **W.I.T.C.H.** series by tk (9 and up) *

Yotsuba&! by Azuma Kiyohiko (All Ages)

"Hidden" Graphic Novels

These titles are often in picture book or chapter book collections — see if you own them and consider designating them as graphic novels.

The Adventures of Robin Hood by Marcia Williams

Amelia's Notebook by Marissa Moss (and Amelia!)

Asterix series by Goscinny

City of Light, City of Dark by Avi

Comic Adventures of Boots by Satoshi Kitamura

Greek Myths for Young Children by Marcia Williams

The Last Knight by Will Eisner

Little Buggy by Kevin O'Malley

Meanwhile... by Jules Feiffer

Little Lit: Folklore & Fairy Tale Funnies edited by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly (and the other Little Lit books, **It was a Dark and Silly Night** and **Strange Stories**)

Master Man: A Tall Tale of Nigeria by Aaron Shepard

Princess and the Frog by Will Eisner

Scary Godmother by Jill Thompson

Sinbad the Sailor by Marcia Williams

Tintin series by Hergé

Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age by Raymond Briggs

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graeme, Adapted by Michel Plessix

You Can't Take a Balloon Into the Metropolitan Museum by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman and Robin Preiss Glasser (along with the other "You Can't Take a Balloon...")

Comic Strip Collections

Consider adding these titles in to your Kids graphic novel collection

The **Archie** Collections

The **Foxtrot** Collections by Bill Amend

The **Garfield** Collections by Jim Davis

The **Peanuts** Collections by Charles Schulz

The **Calvin and Hobbes** Collections by Bill Watterson

Walt Disney Comics — reprinted by Gemstone Comics (<http://www.gemstonepub.com>)

CORE LISTS: JAPANESE MANGA

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New Series to Watch

Emma by Kaoru Mori
Gakuen Alice by Tachibana Higuchi *
Hikkatsu! by Yu Yagami
Kekkaishi by Yellow Tanabe *
My Heavenly Hockey Club by Ai Morinaga
Mushishi by Yuki Urushibara *
Pumpkin Scissors by Ryotaro Iwanaga
To Terra by Keiko Takemiya
Translucent by Kazuhiro Okamoto
With the Light by Keiko Tobe
Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms by Fumiyo Kouno

Manga for Older Kids and Tweens

+ANIMA by Natsumi Mukai *
Angelic Layer by CLAMP
Aria by Amano Kozue *
Aqua by Amano Kozue *
Baron: The Cat Returns by Aoi Hiiragi *
Beet the Vandel Buster by Riku Sanjo *
Beyblade by Takao Aoki
Cardcaptor Sakura by CLAMP *
Gon by Masashi Tanaka *
Hikaru no Go by Yumi Hotta *
Howl's Moving Castle by Hayao Miyazaki *
Kingdom Hearts by Shiro Amano *
Magic Knight Rayearth by CLAMP
Nausicaa of the Valley of the Winds by Hayao Miyazaki
Prince of Tennis by Takeshi Konomi *
Rave Master by Hiro Mashima
Spirited Away by Hayao Miyazaki *
Whistle! By Daisuke Higuchi *

Shojo Manga (teen girls comics)

After School Nightmare by Setona Mizuki
Azumanga Daioh by Azuma Kiyohiko
Beauty Pop by Kiyoko Arai
Boys Over Flowers by Yoko Kamio
Ceres, Celestial Legend by Yu Watase
Confidential Confessions by various authors
Crimson Hero by Mitsuba Takanashi
Demon Flowers by Mizuki Hakase
D N Angel by Yukiru Sugisaki *
ES (Eternal Sabbath) by Fuyumi Soryo
Fruits Basket by Natsuki Takaya
Fushigi Yugi: Genbu Kaiden by Yu Watase
Hana-Kimi by Hisaya Nakajo
Kare Kano by Masami Tsuda
Kitchen Princess by Natsumi Ando *
Love Com by Aya Nakahara
Mars by Fuyumi Soryo
Only the Ring Finger Knows by Satoru Kannagi



Paradise Kiss by Ai Yazawa
Peach Girl by Miwa Ueda
Pet Shop of Horrors: Tokyo by Matsuri Akino
Skip Beat by Yoshiko Nakamura
Vampire Knight by Matsuri Hino
V. B. Rose by Banri Hidaka
W Juliet by Emura
XXXholic by CLAMP

Shonen Manga (teen boys comics)

Black Cat by Kentaro Yabuki
Bleach by Tite Kubo
Comic Party by Sekihiko Inui
Death Note by Tsugumi Ohba
Fullmetal Alchemist by Hiromu Arakawa
Full Metal Panic! by Shouji Gatou
Hikaru no Go by Yumi Hotta (7+) *
Hunter X Hunter by Yoshihiro Togashi
Inu-Yasha: A Feudal Fairy Tale by Rumiko Takahashi
The Kindaichi Case Files by Yozaburo Kanari
Line by Yua Kotegawa
Love Roma by Minoru Toyoda
Monster by Naoki Urusawa
Naruto by Masashi Kishimoto
Negima! by Ken Akamatsu
One Piece by Eiichiro Oda
Planetes by Makoto Yukimura
The Prince of Tennis by Takeshi Konomi *
Ranma 1/2 by Rumiko Takahashi
Rurouni Kenshin by Nobuhiro Watsuki
Yakitate! Japan by Takashi Hashiguchi *
Yu Yu Hakusho by Yoshihiro Togashi

Manga-style Titles (not Japanese)

Avalon High by Meg Cabot
Demo by Brian Wood
Dramacon by Svetlana Chmakova
The Dreaming by Queenie Chan
East Coast Rising by Becky Cloonan
Gothic Sports by Anike Hage
Re:Play by Christy Lijewski
Megatokyo by Fred Gallagher
Scott Pilgrim by Bryan Lee O'Malley
Vampire Kisses series by Ellen Schreiber

Korean Manhwa

Angel Diary by Yunhee Lee *
Bride of the Water God by Mi-Kyung Yun
Bring it On! by Hye Kyung Baek
Chocolat by Ji Sang Jin
Dokebi Bride by Marley
DVD by Kye Young Chon
Goong by SoHee Park
One Thousand and One Nights by Jin Seok Jian

NEW & NOTABLE FOR SCHOOLS

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New for Older Kids

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel by Eoin Colfer
Warriors: The Lost Warrior by Erin Hunter
Amulet: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi
Magic Pickle series by Scott Morse
Mouse Guard: Fall 1152 by David Peterson (9 and up)
Flight Explorer by Various Artists

For Tweens 11 and up

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
Angel Diary by Yunhee Lee
Annotated Northwest Passage Volume 1 by Scott Chantler
The Arrival by Shaun Tan
Bone by Jeff Smith
Cardcaptor Sakura by CLAMP
Courtney Crumrin series by Ted Naifeh
Mouse Guard: Fall 1152 by David Peterson
To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel by Siena Cherson Siegel
WJHC! series by Jane Fisher Smith

For Teens

All Star Superman by Grant Morrison
Batman: Year 100 by Paul Pope
Elk's Run by Joshua Hale Fialkov
Flight Volume 4 by Various Authors
Garage Band by Gipi
Girl Genius by Phil and Kaja Foglio
Iron West by Doug Tenapel
Notes from a War Story by Gipi
The P.L.A.I.N. Janes by Cecil Castellucci (and other titles from the Minx line)
Re-Gifters by Mike Carey
Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms by Fumiyo Kouno
Train + Train by Hideyuki Kurata

New and Notable School Titles

Babymouse series by Jennifer Holm (ES)
Blue Beetle series by Keith Giffen (MS-HS)
Bone series by Jeff Smith (MS-HS)
Cartoon Guide to... by Larry Gonick (HS)
Castle Waiting by Linda Medley (ES-HS)
Civil War by Mark Millar (MS-HS)
Clan Apis by Jay Hosler (ES-MS)
Comics Classics Shakespeare adapted by Various Creators (HS)
Dignifying Science by Jim Ottaviani (MS-HS)
Doctor Strange: The Oath by Brian K. Vaughan (MS-HS)
First in Space by James Vining (MS-HS)
The Osprey **Graphic History** series by various authors (ES-MS)
Hikaru no Go by Yuma Hotta (MS-HS)

Houdini: The Handcuff King by Jason Lutes (MS-HS)
The Immortal Iron Fist series by Ed Brubaker (MS-HS)
Japan Ai: A Tall Girl's Adventures in Japan by Aimee Major-Steinberger (MS-HS)
Journey into Mohawk Country adapted by George O'Connor (MS-HS)
King Lear by Gareth Hinds (MS-HS)
Laika by Nick Abadzis (MS-HS)
Levitation: Physics and Psychology in the Service of Deception by Jim Ottaviani (MS-HS)
The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam by Ann Marie Fleming (MS-HS)
Manga Shakespeare series by various authors (MS-HS)
Maus I & II by Art Spiegelman (HS)
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (HS)
Pyeongyang: A Journey into North Korea by Guy Delisle (HS)
Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow by James Sturm (MS-HS)
Shakespeare's Hamlet adapted by Tintin Pantoja (MS-HS)
Stuck in the Middle: 17 Stories from an Unpleasant Age by Various Creators (MS)
To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel by Siena Cherson Siegel (ES-MS)
Ultimate Spider-Man: Power and Responsibility by Brian Michael Bendis (MS-HS)
The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís (MS-HS)
Wire Mothers: Harry Harlow and the Science of Love by Jim Ottaviani (HS)
The Yellow Jar (volume 1)
The Silk Tapestry (volume 2)
The Tree of Love (volume 3) by Patrick Atangan (ES-MS)
Young Avengers series by Allan Heinberg (HS)

New and Notable Adult Titles

With potential for curriculum connections in 10-12th grade
Age of Bronze series by Eric Shanower
Akira by Katsuhiro Otomo
Barefoot Gen by Keiji Nakazawa
Batman: The Dark Knight Returns by Frank Miller
Cancer Vixen by Marisa Marchetto
Cartoon Guide to Modern History by Larry Gonick
Embroideries by Marjane Satrapi
Exit Wounds by Rutu Modan
The Rabbi's Cat by Joann Sfar
Ronald Reagan: A Graphic Biography by Andrew Helfer
War Fix by David Axe
Watchmen by Alan Moore
We Are On Our Own by Miriam Katin
Will Eisner's New York by Will Eisner