GRAPHIC NOVELS: A GATEWAY FOR RELUCTANT READERS

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HI THERE!

- Kyla Hunt, MSIS
- Currently a librarian at the Art Institute of Fort Worth
- Some of my favorite graphic novels and manga are...

readbetweenthepanels.wordpress.com
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

- How comics are different
- Books and Programs for Kids
- Books and Programs for Teens/Young Adults
SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- Frisco Public Library
- Cool Cats Cards and Comics
- The Art Institute of Fort Worth
And what are they anyway?

HOW COMICS ARE DIFFERENT
OH NO! YOU CAUGHT YOUR KID/STUDENT/PET READING COMICS.
IS IT A COMIC? A GRAPHIC NOVEL? A MANGA?

- Graphic novel – a stand-alone title, often more “literary” in feel
Comic – serialized; can be of the superhero variety
Manga – Japanese comic, with a much longer history than American comics. Read right to left.
WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT?

- Creative space between the panels
- Focus not just on external, but internal action
WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT...

- To beginning readers?
  - Visual language
  - Puts reader in control
  - Learn language from context clues

- To young readers?
  - Can feel subversive and exciting
  - Focuses on emotion (especially manga)
ENGAGING KIDS AND TEENS IN YOUR LIBRARY
ANIME/MANGA CLUB

- Let the club or TAB decide the direction of the club
- FOOD
- Series discussions, anime karaoke, meet-ups and debates
ESL/EFL

- Program idea from Frisco Public Library
- Read comics together as a class
- Create dialogue from comics with the text removed
Give parents tips on reading comics with their kids

Comic books, but also funny pages
PARTNER WITH LOCAL COMIC SHOPS

- Free Comic Book Day
- Promote them and they’ll promote you
- Know where your patrons shop
COMIC-CONS
Find out what your patrons are excited about
Plan a roster of events
Get assistance from student or youth groups
Ask for buy-in from local businesses or experts

**Possible student volunteer positions**

1. Manga meetup leader
2. Zombie
3. Marvel vs. DC Comics debater (four positions)
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
   d. 4
4. Debate moderator
5. Debate timekeeper
6. Photo booth photographer
7. Photo booth photographer’s assistant
8. Event photographer
9. Cosplay content judge (three positions)
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
10.
COMIC-CONS

- Promotion
  - Social Media
  - Library Website
  - Word of mouth
  - Promote to schools (if you’re not a school)
  - Ask assistance from your teen volunteers
Throughout the day:
- Local comic bookstore booth in library
- Cosplay Photo Booth (photo studio?)
- Fan Meet-ups
- Game table

Scheduled speakers and events:
- Comic creation
- Author speaker
- Game creator
- Zombie Survival Program
- Cosplay Contest
- Movie Showing
BOOKS AND RESOURCES
TITLES FOR ELEMENTARY AGED KIDS
TITLES FOR YOUNGER TEENS
COMIC REVIEW SITES

SITES FOCUSING ON COMICS AND EDUCATION

- Reading with Pictures - http://www.readingwithpictures.org/
- Comics in Education http://geneyang.com/comicsedu/
- Comic Book Legal Defense Fund http://cbldf.org/
QUESTIONS?
CREATIVE COMMONS IMAGES USED

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