Using Comics and Graphic Novels with Children and Teens

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Intro!
Previous webinar

So, you’ve caught your child/student/patron reading a comic...
Graphic novel – a stand-alone title, often more “literary” in feel – can be fiction or non-fiction!

Is it a comic? A graphic novel? A manga?
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- Comic – serialized; can be of the super-hero variety
Manga – Japanese comic, with a much longer history than American comics. Read right to left.
What makes them special?

- Creative space between the panels
- Focus not just on external, but internal action
What makes them special...

- 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 children and teens in your library

Programs
Graphic Novel Book Club

- Book Club that **only** reads graphic novels
- Book Club reads a mixture of graphic novels and other formats
- Compare and contrast graphic novel adaptations of other works with their original formats
Anime Club

- Club-directed activities
- Origami
- Learn how to draw manga
  - Bring out drawing books or host a drawing workshop
- Sample Japanese snacks (dagashi)
- Compare manga vs. anime versions
- Cosplay workshop
Weeded Comics: a New Life!

- Easy, free prize for any occasion
- Use them for any craft project that requires paper
  - Especially with Modpodge!
- Encourage teens to
- Comics Stickers & Buttons
Comic-cons

- 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
Resources and recommendations
Quirks of Graphic Novel Collection Development

- Shelf space for a series
- Author/Creative change mid-series
- Hardcover vs. Paperback vs. Omnibus editions
- Quality of binding
- Nonfiction comics
- When to weed a series?
- Multiple series with the same or similar titles – sometimes the same authors as well
- Frequent changes in staffing in a single series
- Very large universe of characters with decades of backstory
- Both publishers have rebooted their entire universes multiple times

Marvel & DC
Titles for Elementary Readers
Middle Grade Titles
Young Teen Recommendations
Older Teen & Adult Titles
Sites focusing on comics and education

Sources for Reviews & New Titles

- Journals
- Blogs
- Publishers
- Twitter & Instagram
- Book Awards
  - Eisner Awards
  - Comics that win or are nominated for non-comics awards
- ALA Resources
  - YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens
  - ALSC's Notable Children's Books
  - GNCRT
- Look at the comics non-book retailers are carrying
  - Target, Costco, Walmart
Get Involved!

WHAT WE DO

- Advocate for and promote comics and graphic novels
- Develop programming and create Pop-Up libraries at comic conventions and library conferences
- Administer the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries
- Provide networking opportunities for library staff and educators involved with graphic novels and comics
- Curate and create resources for collection development, best practices, and programming
- Create outreach opportunities to grow membership and allow more access to our resources
- Discuss and advocate for issues around cataloging and metadata
Get Involved!

The GNCRT is a collaborative organization dedicated to supporting library staff in all aspects of engaging with graphic novels and comics.

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Questions?