

## Comics and Graphic Novels – Beneficial for All Reading Levels and All Ages

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What can people do to feel better during a period of isolation, especially within a global pandemic condition? Comics and graphic novels could be one of the best options for everyone to refresh and “escape” awhile from realistic world. Many people enjoy a sense of comfort from reading. Graphic novels could be a top choice as instead of too much overwhelming text-based content, the words are supplemented with interesting and fun illustrations. “Graphic novels can be described as novels using images, as well as words, to tell a story” (D., 2019).

A graphic novel is a type of book mixed with diverse comics content. Even though “novel” usually refers to fictional stories, graphic novels can include both fiction and non-fiction and also anthologized works. People may ask or doubt about whether graphic novels are really counted as “real book”? Of course, they are! According to Reading Rockets (2017):

Similar to comic books, graphic novels weave rich, lively visuals with a limited amount of text to drive the narrative. They can be especially appealing to young readers who are reluctant to pick up a more traditional book. Graphic novels are a great way to help struggling readers strengthen vocabulary, build reading confidence and stamina, and develop a deeper appreciation of storytelling (para. 1).

So, what would be beneficial to young readers from diving in a graphic novel’s world? Several benefits can be highlighted:

- Attracting readers’ attention in a fast-paced reading process. This particular characteristic might not be garnered from other types of readings. It can be the most attractive and exciting feature that readers can feel from reading graphic novel books.
- Increasing readers’ reading skills – inferencing, demonstrating punctuation, understanding the relationship between images and text etc. Also, using their imagination to explore their own understanding of the comic context can help readers develop the interaction between imagined and realistic world.
- Graphic novels are available for all reading levels and suitable for all ages.
- It can bring more motivations to young adults to help them to develop better reading habits. Nowadays, the rapid development of technology and internet makes more and more young people addicted to the online world, thus, leaving the more traditional reading behind. Comic and graphic novels can use its quick, fun, attractive features to appeal to readers who will enjoy holding a book in their hands.

### References

- D., S. (May 22, 2019). *The benefits of reading graphic novels*. Bucks Country Free Library. Retrieved March 2, 2021, from <https://buckslib.org/the-benefits-of-reading-graphic-novels/>
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