

Resource List: Graphic Novels

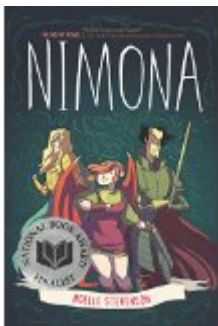
By Christine Cousins

Graphic novels are a dual media created through a mixture of images and text, and as such are a perfect entrance into empathy and understanding characters and their motivations. Readers get a comprehensive glimpse into the world of characters in graphic novels and can see how characters develop and understand nuance moments through how the images and text interact with each other. Graphic novels can thus provide insights into serious circumstances such as war and social issues (Williams, 2008), but can also provide access to empathy through the detailed lives of fictional characters. The list below provides a small sample of graphic novels that draws on both manga and comics, and touches on more serious content as well as general adventure or fantastic tales.



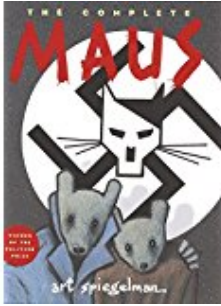
Yona of the Dawn by Mizuho Kusanagi

A young princess in an ancient kingdom is thrust on a journey to find four dragons of legend after her father, the king, is murdered. Yet this story is far from ordinary as these dragons are humans with magical abilities and haunted pasts, the usurper king begins to save the kingdom, and the princess battles her trauma to become a strong and fearsome warrior, pursuing not the throne, but the well-being of her people.



Nimona by Noelle Stevenson

A young shape-shifter named Nimona approaches Blackheart, the greatest villain in the land, and convinces him to give her a job. What follows the unlikely pair is hilarious adventure that turns dark as past relationships and secrets come to play. This story confirms that while friendship endures, villains aren't always evil, heroes aren't always virtuous, and one should never piss off a girl who can turn into a shark.



The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman

These graphic novels depict its characters as animals, the Jews as mice and the Germans as cats, and the images serve to bring to life the dual stories of author Art Spiegelman and his father Vladeck in startling ways that show the reader sides of a story of the Holocaust in a way they never would have imagined.



Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol

Anya is a Russian immigrant who has worked hard to fit in moderately well at school, but still feels very much an outsider. Things take a turn, however, when she falls down a well and befriends the ghost of another girl. At first this friendship seems entirely to Anya's benefit; she gets better grades and manages to go to the same party of her crush, yet the things are not as they seem, and might be rather more dangerous than Anya expects.

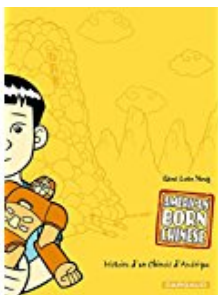
they seem, and might be rather more dangerous than Anya expects.



Re: ZERO - Starting Life in Another World – A Day in the Capital, vols. 1-2 by Tappei Nagatsuki and art by Dauchi Matsuse

This manga is an adaption of a light novel by the same name, and follows Subaru Natsuki as he finds himself in another world and re-living the same day each time he dies. This naturally means that he dies quite a lot, for he has become determined

to help the girl he has fallen for through a dangerous situation that only gets more complicated as he learns about the lives of all those involved.



American Born Chinese by Gene Yang

This graphic novel invites readers into the world of three, apparently very different, characters. As the characters are revealed to be connected in surprising ways, the reader is drawn into their story and the conflicts that arise between and within the protagonists. It is not only the main characters that the reader begins to understand and empathize with, but also friends and

family who are impacted by Chinese culture and the perceptions of otherness.

The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

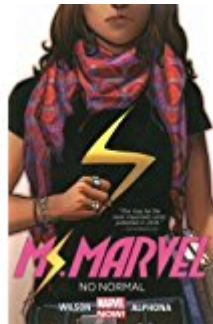


In this autobiographical graphic novel Marjane Satrapi details her life from early childhood, growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Darkly humorous and darkly real, this work offers teens a chance to a glimpse into the everyday life of someone living in a war-torn and shifting country.

The Undertaking of Lily Chen by Danica Novgorodoff

Deshi and Lily end up on a rather strange journey. Beautiful watercolour scenery of China is intermixed with simple cartoons that depict the challenges the characters face and make the dark story of Deshi's search for a ghost bride for his dead brother all the more stark and haunting. Readers will see far

more than is said in this tale, and get glimpses of many lives that are both similar and different to their own.



Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1: No Normal by G. Willow Wilson

Kamala is Muslim teenager who gains shape-shifting powers one night when sneaking away from her strict parents to attend a party. Now, she not only has to balance her religion and Pakistani culture with being a modern American teenager, but also with being a superhero. Kamala is a remarkably relatable character, which makes her exploits and challenges all the more real and enjoyable.



The Rising of the Shield Hero by Akiya Kyû, Aneko Yusagi

Naofumi is summoned to another world as one of the four great heroes who fight with powerful weapons. Yet his weapon is a shield, and after he is wrongfully accused of attacking his companion it is clear that he isn't really wanted at all. This twist on a common theme has readers taking a closer look at what it means to be a hero or a villain. All amidst magic, monsters, and general mayhem, of course.