

Differentiation Ideas for Graphic Novels

By Cheri Lewis, Gifted Resources Teacher at
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1. **Pacing.** Make graphic novels part of a learning center or anchoring activity (something for students to go to if they finish their work earlier). Include choices of activities.
2. **Ability.** Get multiple copies of graphic novels which correspond to novels students will be reading. Form a group of low end learners to read and complete activities related to the graphic novel.
3. **Choice.** Use a class set of a graphic novel. Give students a choice of projects.
4. **Tiered Assignment.** Have advanced students work on creating a graphic novel from a novel they read for future use. Each year groups of students could improve or add to the graphic novel until it is acceptable for classroom use.
5. **Ability.** Have advanced students compare a graphic version of a novel to the original tiered assignments.
 - A. Not-quite-ready group
 1. Read graphic novel
 2. Complete worksheets
 - A. vocabulary
 - B. comprehension
 - B. Just ready group
 1. Read regular version of novel
 2. Complete appropriate work sheets
 3. Select a project
 4. Make a learning center available when work is finished early
 - C. Ready to go group
 1. Read regular novel and graphic novel
 2. Complete more challenging worksheets or assignments including: a short essay comparing the two
 3. Select a project

Graphic Novels at Lynnhaven Middle School Library. Virginia Beach, VA

Title	Author	Level	Description
Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq	Samaty, Mark	INT/MS/HS	Presents the story of Alia, a librarian who lives and works in Basra, and her desperate attempt to save the books in the central library at the start of the Iraqi War in 2003.
B.B. Explosion (manga series)	Imai, Yasue	INT/MS/HS	Airi, an Okinawan teen who dreams of becoming a star, enlists the help of her guardian angel in getting her into the big city's actor's school--a prerequisite for appearing on the American Idol-like television show, Boom Boom.
Baron the Cat Returns (manga)	Hiiragi, Aoi	INT/MS	When awkward schoolgirl Haru rescues a cat on her way home from school one day, the last thing she expects in return is to be honored by a feline royal family!
Bone (series)	Smith, Jeff	INT/MS	Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone are run out of their home, Boneville, and become separated in the wilds.
City of Light, City of Dark	Avi	MS	Asterel races against time to locate a token which will prevent the Kurbs from freezing the city.
The Hardy Boys (graphic series)	Lobdell, Scott	INT/MS	A graphic series featuring Frank and Joe Hardy, amateur boy detectives.
Maus I & Maus II	Spiegelman, Art	MS/HS	Non-fiction graphic novels about the holocaust from Pulitzer Prize winning author Art Spiegelman.
Nancy Drew (graphic series)	Petrucha, Stefan	INT/MS	A graphic series featuring teen sleuth Nancy Drew, and her friends George and Bess.
Peach Fuzz (manga)	Cibos, Lindsay	INT/MS	Nine-year old Amanda and her new pet, a ferret she names "Peach", embark on a battle of wills as Amanda struggles to teach Peach not to bite.
Rave Master (manga series)	Mashima, Hiro	INT/MS/HS	Sixteen-year old Haru Glory is featured as the "Rave Master", a boy warrior.
Tokyo Mew Mew (manga series)	Ikumi, Mia	INT/MS/HS	Ichigo's life hasn't been the same since her DNA was merged with the DNA of an almost extinct wildcat.

Bibliography

Books and periodical articles

Gorman, Michele. Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens. Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing, Inc., 2003.

“The Librarian’s Guide to Manga”. <http://www.tokyopop.com>.

Lyga, Allyson and Barry Lyga. Graphic Novels in Your Media Center: A Definitive Guide. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004. (Original lesson plans By Allyson Lyga included)

Toppo, Greg. “Teachers are Getting Graphic.” USA Today, 4 May 2005, D1.

Weiner, Stephen. The 101 Best Graphic Novels. New York: NBM, 2001.

Review Sources

Booklist <http://www.ala.org/>

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

No Flying, No Tights <http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>

Publishers Weekly <http://www.publishersweekly.com/>

School Library Journal <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/>

VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates <http://www.voya.com/>

Distributors & Vendors (many more available)

Amazon.com <http://www.amazon.com>

Barnes & Noble <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Dark Horse Comics <http://libraries.darkhorse.com/>

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

Follett Library Resources <http://www.titlewave.com/>

TokyoPop <http://www.tokyopop.com/> (manga publisher)

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

Marvel Comics <http://www.marvelcomics.com>

Viz Communications, Inc. <http://viz.com> Manga and Anime site

Powell’s Books <http://www.powells.com/> (online book seller)

Listservs

GNIE-L Graphic Novels in Education. To subscribe send a BLANK email to GNIE-L-subscribe@topica.com

GNLIB-L Graphic novels in libraries. To subscribe send a BLANK email to GNLIB-L-subscribe@topica.com

Reference & Teaching

Maus study guide

<http://www.chfestival.org/resources/content/ComicBookLessonPlan.pdf>

Book Report Alternative: Comic Strips & Cartoon Squares

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195

Comics in the classroom as an introduction to genre study

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=188

Diamond Comics lesson plans

<http://bookshelf.diamondcomics.com/lessonplans/default.htm>

NACA (National Ass. of Comics Art Educators)

<http://www.teachingcomics.org/>

The Comic Book Periodic Table of the Elements

<http://www.uky.edu/Projects/Chemcomics/>

Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art

<http://www.moccany.org/>

The New York City Comic Book Museum

<http://www.nyccomicbookmuseum.org/education/education.htm>

Comic books for young adults

<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/comics/pages/>

Comic Book Legal Defense Fund

<http://www.cbldf.org>

Free Comic Book Day

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

PowerPoint Illustrations credit

Slide 1: Batgirl and Supergirl <http://www.bat-hound.com/batgirl/wolfe/wolfebgsg.jpg>

Slide 2: Rave Master 1 <http://www.amazon.com>

Slide 3: A Contract with God <http://www.amazon.com>

Slide 4: MausII <http://barnesandnoble.com>

Slide 5: Comic book set <http://angadi.dnsalias.com:1234/comics.html>

Slide 6: The Yellow Kid <http://www.toonopedia.com/yellow.htm>

Slide 7: "Pickles" <http://angadi.dnsalias.com:1234/comics.html>

Slide 9: Astro Boy <http://www.astro-boy.net>

Slide 15: Lynnhaven Middle School Library photo. Graphic novel sign and spine labels available from <http://www.demco.com>

Slide 18. Bone. <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Slide 19. Maus I & II. <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Slide 20. Nancy Drew & Hardy Boys. <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Slide 21. B.B. Explosion. <http://www.titlewave.com/>

Slide 22. Rave Master. <http://www.titlewave.com/>

Slide 23. Tokyo Mew Mew. <http://www.titlewave.com/>

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