

Northmead Reading Newsletter

April
2023

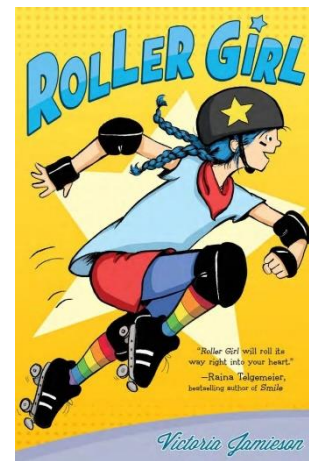


This month's reading newsletter is devoted to the subject of graphic novels

Graphic novels.

Graphic Novels are books which tell a full-length story published in comic-strip format not, as the name could suggest, a book with slightly dubious content!

Graphic novels come in a variety of genres; adventure, mystery, fantasy, and historical fiction, and there are some non-fiction books which are being released with a similar graphic structure. Additionally, numerous classic texts, such as those by Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare, have graphic novel versions that can help readers more readily access the content. So, if your child wants to read a graphic novel it is important to select a topic they identify with and will be interested in

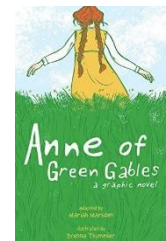


There are some educators and librarians who may suggest that graphic novels don't count as "real reading." They have too many pictures, too few words, and lack too much quality to ever be seriously considered as literature, or even books. However, we, alongside many literacy experts would disagree with this. Graphic novels will improve your child's reading skills like any other book.



This quote comes from Judd Winick, an award winning cartoonist. "I think there is a lot of unnecessary debate about whether comic books constitute "real" reading. You see the words inside the balloons above the characters? You read them. It's reading. Do you think kids should only read comics? No. I think, like with food, one needs a balanced diet. But for a kid who doesn't dig reading, hasn't fallen in love with stories yet, comics will get them falling in love. And then they'll read prose. I promise!"

So, we would encourage children to read graphic novels as part of their reading diet, I have outlined some reasons why on the next page.



Graphic novels are full of text. They also have drawings, illustrations, and sometimes photos, but they have text that readers must actually decode, analyse, and comprehend.

With graphic novels children must still follow the plot and character development and understand cause and effect. All of these things will contribute to improving their reading comprehension

Graphic novels are engaging.

Graphic novels can appeal to reluctant readers and able readers alike. Often, especially for more reluctant readers, graphic novels add the extra support children need to help them through a text. Many children, who otherwise struggle with stamina or find decoding large passages tricky, enjoy the support that the images and the reduced level of text a graphic novel offers.

More-able readers will also enjoy the challenge of delving in to images to decode the details of engaging stories and characters' emotions. They are also a great way for the more-able reader to approach more challenging reading themes through an accessible and non-threatening medium.

Graphic novels can be high-quality reading material. Just like traditional novels, graphic novels have exciting and complex plots, characters, and conflicts. The plots have twists and turns. Characters are developed and dynamic. Conflicts are presented and resolved like they are in other texts. The only difference is that graphic novels have more images to support the development. Of course, just like with any children's literature there are good examples and poorer examples.

Graphic novels develop visual literacy. Children need to read the text and the image at the same time. This presentation can be used to develop inference where children need to interpret the visuals as well as the text. Discussing the artist's choices, could involve questions such as: Why have they decided to use a full-page image here (splash page)? What impact does this series of smaller images have? Whose perspective are we looking from? What impact does that have? What can you tell about the plot/character which is revealed in the pictures but not in the text?



Currently we have very few graphic novels in our library, partly because they do tend to be more expensive than a regular novel.

However, I am hoping to expand our selection. With that in mind I have added a range of titles to the NST amazon wishlist.

If you felt able to purchase a book we would be very grateful.

I shall also use money raised from our Book fair to supplement our collection.

The Excelsior Award is the only **fully independent, nationwide** book award for **graphic novels and manga** - where children aged **9-18** decide the winner (via four age-appropriate categories) by rating each book as they read it!

Have a look at their website

<https://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/shortlists-2023>



Below I have listed a range of graphic novel titles which you may wish to investigate with your child:

Akissi by Marguerite Abouet and Mathieu Sapin
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Jedi Academy by Jeffrey Brown
Speak Up by Rebecca Burgess
Cat Ninja and Bright Family by Matthew Cody
DC Superhero Girls by Shea Fontana
Freestyle by Gale Galligan
Pokemon Journeys by Machito Gomi
Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke
Splatoon by Sankichi Hinodeya
Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson
Amulet by Kazu Kibuishi
The Baby-sitters Club by Ann M. Martin
Mason Mooney by Seaerra Miller
Corpse Talk by Lisa Murphy and Adam Murphy
Witch trilogy by Molly Ostertag
Barb the Brave by Jason Patterson and Dan Abdo
White Bird by R. J. Palacio
Hildafolk by Luke Pearson
Big Nate by Lincoln Pierce
Miles Morales by Justin Reynolds
Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan
Phoebe and her Unicorn by Dana Simpson
Tree Mail by Brian Smith
Barry Loser by Jim Smith
Brownstone's Mythical Collection by Joe-Todd Stanton
The Arrival by Shaun Tan
Ms Marvel by G. Willow Wilson and various other authors
Hilo by Judd Winick

The Book Fair is running Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday after school in the library. All orders
must reach Miss Lewis by 1st May