

## ***Fostering a Love of Reading with Graphic Novels***

**Are students now reading ‘comic books’ in school?**

### ***What is a graphic novel?***

The definition of graphic novel is: a story that is presented in comic-strip format and published as a book. Graphic novels are full of text. Sure, they have drawings and illustrations and sometimes photos, but they have text that readers must actually decode, analyze, and comprehend.

### ***What is a graphic novel format?***

A graphic novel is a book made up of comics content. Although the word "novel" normally refers to long fictional works, the term "graphic novel" is applied broadly and includes fiction, non-fiction, and anthologized work. It is distinguished from the term "comic book", which is generally used for comics periodicals.

### ***How many pages do graphic novels have?***

Basically, every sheet within the book represents two pages. Even if a sheet in the book is blank on one side, or is blank on both sides, your printer will count it as two pages. Thus, there will always be twice as many pages as there are sheets within a book. 100 sheets = 200 pages.

### ***Should graphic novels be considered literature?***

It was written word for word, as if you were reading a script, but with visual aids, as if it were “real.” Most graphic novels should be considered literary works rather than just art. ... When it comes to value, these graphic novels can compete right up with the best sellers of "real" novels.

### ***Are graphic novels and comics the same thing?***

There's a very clear difference between the two. Graphic novels are much longer and tend to be much more complex. While a comic book will tell a story over many issues, graphic novels more often have their storylines wrapped up in only one or two books

Graphic novels and comic books are basically the same except for content. Generally a comic book is released in issues and each issue is generally 20 pages long. Once a story arc or comic series has been finished it will be released as a graphic novel which is basically every issue of the comic released as one book.

### ***Why are graphic novels important?***

Graphic novels offer the opportunity to learn important reading skills, like inference. “Reading between the lines” of a text is often a tricky task, but readers who have experience with interpreting a story based on texts and images are actively developing this important skill.

**Here are three reasons to give your kids graphic novels — especially if they ask for them:**

**1. Graphic novels are full of text.** Graphic novels have text that readers must actually decode, analyze, and comprehend.

**2. Graphic novels are engaging.** Often, especially for our **struggling or emerging readers**, graphic novels add that extra support that kids need to help them through a text. The illustrations keep readers' minds working, and the combination of text and pictures gets kids through stories that they may have otherwise not completely understood.

**3. Graphic novels are rich.** Just like traditional novels, graphic novels have exciting and complex plots, characters, and conflicts. Plots have twists and turns. Characters are developed and are dynamic. Conflicts are presented, unwound, and resolved in the same ways that they are in other texts. The only difference is that graphic novels have graphics to support the development.

Just like other genres, graphic novels are not created equally, and every parent must choose what is a good "fit" for their own children.

Check out why graphic novels are great for young readers using URL below?

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/3-reasons-graphic-novels-can-be-great-young-readers.html>

The graphic novels on the site below will jump start your child's reading.

<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-children-books-graphic-novels>

If you would like to see a graphic novel, please feel free to stop by our Library Learning Commons.

