

University of
Lethbridge



Faculty of Education

Literature Fair 2014

Reading the Word: Reading the World

SESSION: *Graphic Novels in the Classroom*

PRESENTER: *Beth Cormier*

Language Arts and Health Connections

Amelia Rules. Jimmy Gownley (2006). A friendship story featuring a girl who has moved to a new town with her recently divorced mother. Focuses on the hilarious mishaps with her new band of quirky friends and explores the subject of divorce sensitively. **F Gow (Class set in Oversize)**

American Born Chinese. Gene Yang (2006). Three engaging stories featuring Chinese-American characters whose experiences connect in a surprising way. Opens cultural discussion and explores themes related to racism, shame and friendship. Winner of the prestigious Printz award for young adult Literature **F Yan**

Anya's Ghost, Vera Brosgol (2011). A Russian immigrant teen struggles to fit in. She befriends a ghost but soon realizes her new friend's motives are sinister and frightening. Spooky and gripping with themes of self-acceptance. **F Bro**

Benjamin Bear in Fuzzy thinking: a Toon book. Philippe Coudray. A series of one-page humorous vignettes ideal for introducing collaborative problem solving.

Jane, The Fox and Me. Fanny Britt (2013). H el ene is an outcast in her grade. Her only consolation is reading Jane Eyre. Even seeing a lovely fox doesn't make her feel better, but maybe a new friendship will. **F Bri.**

Hiccup! Mike Herrod (2012). A bunny gets a bad case of the hiccups right before the school play and tries every possible cure to get rid of them. A fun read with great visuals. **F Her**

Mo and Jo: Fighting Together Forever: a Toon book. Dean Haspiel & Jay Lynch (2008) Siblings Mo and Jo fight about everything, but have to learn to cooperate when a treasured superhero costume is torn in half.

Odd Duck. Cecile Castellucci & Sara Varon. (2013) Theodora the duck sets a good example for her friend Chad, but who is the odd duck? Fun look at individuality. **F Cas**

Rapunzel's Revenge. Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale (2008). A "Damsel in Distress" tale reinvented. Rapunzel escapes confinement, tricks her handsome rescuer, and discovers a wild west world of outlaws and dust outside the castle walls. **F Hal**

Stinky: a Toon Book. Eleanor Davis (2008). A little monster named Stinky is determined to keep kids away from his swamp, knowing that they don't like smelly, slimy things like him. When a boy wanders into his swamp, Stinky's efforts to scare him away end up in a new friend. Warm and entertaining. **F Dav (Class Set in Oversize)**

The Return of the Dapper Men. Jim McCann (2010). A realistic fantasy where time has stopped and a group of "dapper men" arrive to help the society move forward.

Zeus: King of the Gods. George O'Connor (2010). Vibrant art and thrilling action bring Greek Mythology to life in this well-reviewed series.

Science and Math Connections

Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species: a Graphic Adaptation. Michael Keller (2009)
Explanation of Darwin's theory and some biography. Drawings illuminate the rather complex ideas presented.

Engineering a Totally Rad Skateboard with Max Axiom, Super Scientist. Tammy Enz. Part of an engaging series with clear appeal, but fairly limited as a concept-oriented text.

Evolution: The Story of Life on Earth. Jay Hosler (2011). An alien scientist explains this complex subject to a king and his son. Delightful characters & clear illustrations.

Logicomix. Apostolos Doxiadis (2009). **PA 5615 O87 L6413** Innovative and dramatic graphic novel based on the life of the philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell.

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas. Jim Ottaviani. (2013) Brief but engaging look at the three women brought together by Louis Leakey to study chimpanzees.

Squish, Super Amoeba. Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm (2011) The escapades of an amoeba as he navigates school, bullies, siblings and parents. A fun way to introduce microbiology.

The Stuff of Life: a Graphic Guide to Genetics and DNA. Mark Schultz (2009). An alien scientist must explain the fundamentals of the subject to his people. Highly recommended for high school science.

T-minus: The Race to the Moon. In graphic novel format, presents the story of two world superpowers racing to land a man on the moon, and the people who worked on the project. Jim Ottaviani (2009)

Two-fisted Science: Stories about Scientists. Jim Ottaviani (2009). True stories from the history of science. Compelling stories show how the personalities and discoveries of several scientists helped shaped our world.

Zig and Wikki in the Cow: a TOON book, Nadja Spiegelman (2012) Two extraterrestrial friends land on Earth in the center of a farm ecosystem, where an argument forces them to separate, only to be brought back together in the stomach of a cow.

Social Studies and Historical Thinking Connections

A Trip to the Bottom of the Sordl with Mouse: a Toon Book. Based on the author's experiences while traveling to Antarctica. A charming story of the sights Mouse sees. Frank Viva (2012)

Anne Frank: the Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography. Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colón. The historical context of Anne's confinement and the events leading up to and after her death are portrayed sensitively in this well-researched account **940.53 Jac**

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller. Joseph Lambert (2012) The Center for Cartoon Studies presents a wholly original take on the story of Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller in the fifth book of the award-winning series of graphic novel biographies.

A Game for Swallows: To Die, to Leave, to Return. Zeina Abirached (2012). When Zeina's parents don't return one afternoon and the bombing in Beirut grows closer, her neighbors create a comfortable world indoors for Zeina and her brother. Together they try to make it through a dramatic day in the one place they believed would always be safe--home.

- Hyena in petticoats: The Story of Suffragette Nellie McClung.** Willow Dawson (2011). **305.42 Daw** Provides an excellent summary of McClung's life as a teacher, a bestselling author, and a suffragette, while also exploring her personal life.
- Laika.** Nick Abadzis (2007) The beautiful and heartbreaking story of the stray dog that became part of the Russian Space Program, and was never intended to return. Explores the bond between humans and animals and captures a small piece of the Soviet era (S.S. 30).
- Louis Riel: a Comic-strip Biography.** Chester Brown (2007). Events leading up to the Red River Resistance and Second Métis Uprising. Building of the CPR, immigration policies, and of course Riel's execution are all covered. The research is evident in the detailed endnotes (S.S. 7). **971.05 Bro**
- Persepolis.** Satrapi, Marjane (2004). Recounts the author's life in Tehran during the Ayatollah's revolution. Simple graphics, engaging narrative, and an important look at another culture. Good for discussions on identity, human rights and marginalization (S.S. 10). **955.054 Sat**
- The Search.** Eric Heuvel (2009) Esther recounts to her grandson Daniel and his friend Jeroen how she escaped from the Nazis and survived by going into hiding during the Holocaust.
- The Storm in the Barn.** Matt Phelan (2009) The dust bowl setting comes alive in this richly visual story set in 1930's Kansas. A young boy discovers that the shadowy figure lurking in the barn is really the rain. Scott O'Dell award for Historical Fiction. **F Phe (Class Set in Oversize)**
- The Yellow Jar: Two Tales from Japanese Tradition. v. 1.** Atangan, Patrick. Two stories from Japanese tradition, exploring the themes of perseverance, individuality and equality (S.S 8).
- The Wall.** Sis, Peter. The author tells his story of growing up in Czechoslovakia alongside a timeline of events from the cold war, ending up in the fall of the Wall. Provides insight into growing up in a harsh totalitarian regime (S.S. 20) **943.704 Sis**

Fine Arts Connections

- The Arrival.** Sean Tan (2006). A Wordless telling of an immigrant's first experiences in a new world. Captures the complexity of the experience with emotional depth and prompts avid discussions about imagery. Poignant in a nation built by immigrants. F Tan (**Class Set in Oversize**)
- Daisy Kutter: The Last Train.** Kazu Kibuishi. Daisy Kutter, notorious bandit of the New West, takes one last train heist before leading a normal life. Expressive pencil art. (2006)
- Explorer: The Mystery Boxes: Seven Graphic Stories.** Kazu Kibuishi (2011)
- Flight, v. 1.** Kazu Kibuishi, editor (2004) Collected stories on the single theme of flight, featuring 24 different graphic artists.
- Friends With Boys.** Faith Erin Hicks. A homeschooled girl has enough trouble adapting to middle school even without the melancholy ghost who has followed her since childhood. Great variety of techniques for visual expression (2012)

FNMI Connections

Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story. David Alexander Robertson (2011) A school assignment to interview a residential school survivor leads Daniel to Betsy who recounts the abuse and indignity she endured, yet shares how her father's words strength. Based on a true story. **F Rob**

7 Generations. Series by the authors of Sugar Falls. Includes a teaching guide online https://www.portageandmainpress.com/lesson_plans/plan_286_1.pdf. **F Rob**

Stories of our People = Lii zistwayr di la naasyoon di Michif: a Métis Graphic Novel Anthology. Norman Fleury ... et al. (2008) Métis stories seamlessly blend characters and motifs from Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions into an exciting, unique synthesis. **741.5971 Sto**

Trickster. Matt Dembicki (2010) Over 20 stories, each written by a Native American storyteller, ranging from the serious & dramatic to the funny & fiendish, bring the traditional character of the 'trickster' back into popular culture. **398.2089 Tri**

Support for Teachers

Bakis, M. (2012). *The graphic novel classroom: powerful teaching and learning with images*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press. **372.6 Bak**

Jaffe, Meryl and Katie Monnin (2013). Using content-area graphic texts for learning: a guide for middle-level educators. **428.4 Jaf**

Monnin, K. (2011). *Teaching early reader comics and graphic novels*. Gainesville, FL: Maupin House Pub. **372.412 Mon**

Novak, Ryan J. (2014) Teaching graphic novels in the classroom: building literacy and comprehension. **371.33 Nov.**

Graphic novel resources for educators. (n.d.). *Get Graphic: The World In Words and Pictures*. Retrieved February 20, 2013, from <http://www.getgraphic.org/teachers.php>

How to read comics (n.d.). *TOON into Reading with TOON Books*. Retrieved February 20, 2013, from <http://www.toon-books.com/how-to-read-comics.html>

Adventures in graphica: using comics and graphic novels to teach comprehension, 2-6 Terry Thompson (2008). **372.41 Tho**