

Resources for Teachers:

Graphic Novels to use in the Classroom

Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography by Sidney Jacobson – j 921 Frank, A.

Summary: Drawing on the unique historical sites, archives, expertise, and unquestioned authority of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, the New York Times bestselling authors Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon have created the first authorized graphic biography of Anne Frank. Their account is complete, covering the lives of Anne's parents, Edith and Otto; Anne's first years in Frankfurt; the rise of Nazism; the Franks' immigration to Amsterdam; war and occupation; Anne's years in the Secret Annex; betrayal and arrest; her deportation and tragic death in Bergen-Belsen; the survival of Anne's father; and his recovery and publication of her astounding diary.

Target Audience: Grades 6-10

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller by Joseph Lambert – j 921 Keller, H.

Summary: In *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller*, author and illustrator Joseph Lambert examines the powerful bond between teacher and pupil, forged through the intense frustrations and revelations of Helen's early education. The result is an inspiring, emotional, and wholly original take on the story of these two great Americans.

Target Audience: Grades 5-8

Around the World by Matt Phelan – j 910.41 Phe

Summary: Challenged with circling the world at the end of the nineteenth century, three very different adventurers--avid bicyclist Thomas Stevens, fearless reporter Nellie Bly, and retired sea captain Joshua Slocum--embark on epic journeys.

Target Audience: Grades 3-7

Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War by Ari Kelman – GN 973.7 Kel

Summary: Featuring breathtaking panoramas and revelatory, unforgettable images, *Battle Lines* is an utterly original graphic history of the Civil War. A collaboration between the award-winning historian Ari Kelman and the acclaimed graphic novelist Jonathan Fetter-Vorm, *Battle Lines* showcases various objects from the conflict (a tattered American flag from Fort Sumter, a pair of opera glasses, a bullet, an inkwell, and more), along with a cast of soldiers, farmers, slaves, and well-known figures, to trace an ambitious narrative that extends from the early rumblings of secession to the dark years of Reconstruction. Employing a bold graphic form to illuminate the complex history of this period, Kelman and Fetter-Vorm take the reader from the barren farms of the home front all the way to the front lines of an infantry charge. A daring presentation of the war that nearly tore America apart, *Battle Lines* is a monumental achievement.

Target Audience: Grades 7 and up

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown – YA 976.335

Summary: On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage -- and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history.

Target Audience: Grades 5 and up

The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey – GN 973.7319 Hen

Summary: *The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation* is a full-color illustrated look at Abraham Lincoln's most famous speech, the bloody battle of the Civil War that prompted it, and how they led to a defining point in the history of America. Most of us can recall "Four score and seven years ago," but much of what we know about Abraham Lincoln's oration has been forgotten after high school. Using Lincoln's words as a keystone, and drawing from first-person accounts, *The Gettysburg Address* shows us the events through the eyes of those who lived through the events of the War, from soldiers to slaves.

Target Audience: Grades 7 and up

The Great American Dust Bowl by Don Brown – j 978.032

Summary: On a clear, warm Sunday, April 14, 1935, a wild wind whipped up millions upon millions of these specks of dust to form a duster—a savage storm—on America's high southern plains. The sky turned black, sand-filled winds scoured the paint off houses and cars, trains derailed, and electricity coursed through the air. Sand and dirt fell like snow—people got lost in the gloom and suffocated . . . and that was just the beginning. Don Brown brings the Dirty Thirties to life with kinetic, highly saturated, and lively artwork in this graphic novel of one of America's most catastrophic natural events: the Dust Bowl.

Target Audience: Grades 5 and up

The Legend of Johnny Appleseed by Martin Powell – j 921 Appleseed, J.

Summary: Little Johnny Appleseed had a big heart, and even bigger dreams. The young boy hoped to one day spread his love of apples by planting apple seeds across the entire country. That way, the apples can feed the hungry, and everyone can enjoy the beautiful trees. So, one day, Johnny sets out to do just that! His adventures bring him face to face with an injured wolf, a giant catfish, the Bigfoot, and much more in this tall tale of a true American legend.

Target Audience: Grades 3-6

March: Book One by John Lewis – GN 323.092 Lew

Summary: This graphic novel is a first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

Target Audience: Grades 8 and up

Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman – GN 940.5318 Spi

Summary: *Maus* is a haunting tale within a tale. Vladek's harrowing story of survival is woven into the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father. Against the backdrop of guilt brought by survival, they stage a normal life of small arguments and unhappy visits.

Target Audience: Grades 9-12

Nursery Rhyme Comics by Chris Duffy – j 741.5973

Summary: First Second is very proud to present *Nursery Rhyme Comics*. Featuring fifty classic nursery rhymes illustrated and interpreted in comics form by fifty of today's preeminent cartoonists and illustrators, this is a groundbreaking new entry in the canon of nursery rhymes treasuries. From *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast's "There Was a Crooked Man" to *Bad Kitty* author Nick Bruel's "Three Little Kittens" to First Second's own Gene Yang's "Pat-a-Cake," this is a collection that will put a grin on your face from page one and keep it there.

Target Audience: Grades Pre-K- 3

The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel by Gareth Hinds – YA Fic Hin

Summary: Fresh from his triumphs in the Trojan War, Odysseus, King of Ithaca, wants nothing more than to return home to his family. Instead, he offends the sea god, Poseidon, who dooms him to years of shipwreck and wandering. Battling man-eating monsters, violent storms, and the supernatural seductions of sirens and sorceresses, Odysseus will need all his strength and cunning—and a little help from Mount Olympus—to make his way home and seize his kingdom from the schemers who seek to wed his queen and usurp his throne

Target Audience: Grades 7 and up

One Dead Spy by Nathan Hale – GN 973.3

Summary: Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.

Target Audience: Grades 3-8

Shakespeare's Macbeth by Adam Sexton – YA FIC Sex

Summary: Witches and prophecies. Fate and fortune.. Murders and atrocities. Insomnia and insanity. Unchecked aspirations and even decapitation. Power-crazed and convinced of his own invincibility, Macbeth, the Scottish war hero, turns into a serial killer, annihilating anybody who gets in his way. A four-page introduction gets you involved, and an abridged text makes the action fast-paced. The text is true to Shakespeare's original language, setting, and time. This manga edition gets you quickly engrossed in Macbeth's blood-soaked path to power.

Target Audience: Grades 7 and up

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet by Adam Sexton – YA FIC Sex

Summary: Feuding families—the Montagues and Capulets. Star-crossed lovers—Romeo and Juliet. A street brawl and a masquerade ball. Comedy and tragedy. Murder and revenge. True romance. A secret marriage. A double suicide. This manga edition features a four-page introduction that sets the stage and a text that's abridged, but retains Shakespeare's original language, setting, and time. Packed with action and emotion, it is the ideal way to explore Shakespeare's timeless themes and appreciate his immortal love scenes.

Target Audience: Grades 7 and up

The Sinking of the Titanic by Matt Doeden – j 910.916 Doe

Summary: Tells the historically accurate story of the 1912 sinking of the Titanic. Written in graphic-novel format.

Target Audience: Grades 3-6

Trinity by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm – GN 355.825119

Summary: A graphic novel account of the race to construct the first atomic bomb and the decision to drop it, tracing the early research, the heated debates, and profiles of forefront Manhattan Project contributors.

Target Audience: Grades 10 and up

True Stories of the Civil War by Nelson Yomtov – j 973.78 Yom

Summary: Step back in time and experience the Civil War through the stories of the people who lived through it. Witness the first shots on Fort Sumter. Hear blood-curdling rebel yells. Experience a brutal battle at sea. True Stories of the Civil War doesn't just tell you the tales of war. It drops you into the thick of combat.

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

True Stories of World War I by Nelson Yomtov – j 940.4 Yom

Summary: Step back in time and experience World War I through the stories of the people who lived through it. Witness the sinking of a British ocean liner. Experience the horror of gas warfare. Soar with a notorious flying ace. True Stories of World War I doesn't just tell you the tales of war. It drops you into the thick of combat.

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

Tyrannosaurus Rex: Mighty Meat Eater by Sheila Hammar – j 567.9129 Ham

Summary: In graphic novel format, text and illustrations present Tyrannosaurus rex, its characteristics and probable behavior, and information about extinction.

Target Audience: Grades 1-3

The Underground Abductor by Nathan Hale – j 306.362 Hal

Summary: Araminta Ross was born a slave in Delaware in the early 19th century. Slavery meant that her family could be ripped apart at any time, and that she could be put to work in dangerous places and for abusive people. But north of the Mason-Dixon line, slavery was illegal. If she could run away and make it north without being caught or killed, she'd be free. Facing enormous danger, Araminta made it, and once free, she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. Tubman spent the rest of her life helping slaves run away like she did, every time taking her life in her hands.

Target Audience: Grades 3-7

Volcanoes by Renee Gray-Wilburn – j 551.21 Gra

Summary: In graphic novel format, text and illustrations explain how volcanoes erupt, how they are studied, and how to stay safe during an eruption.

Target Audience: Grades 1-3

When Dinos Dawned, Mammals Got Munched and Pteosaurs Took Flight by Hannah Bonner – j 596.9 Bon

Summary: In the style of *When Bugs Were Big* and *When Fish Got Feet* this book discusses all the exciting developments of the Triassic Age, from the split of Pangaea into Gondwanaland and Laurasia, to the first appearance of the dinosaurs. There were pterosaurs (flying reptiles), the first flowering plants, humongous sea creatures, early turtles, and the first coral reefs. Early mammals also appeared in the Triassic, and there were several dramatic extinction events. With the books' signature blend of humor and clearly presented information, cartoon illustrations help keep the fact-filled material extra fun.

Target Audience: Grades 3-7